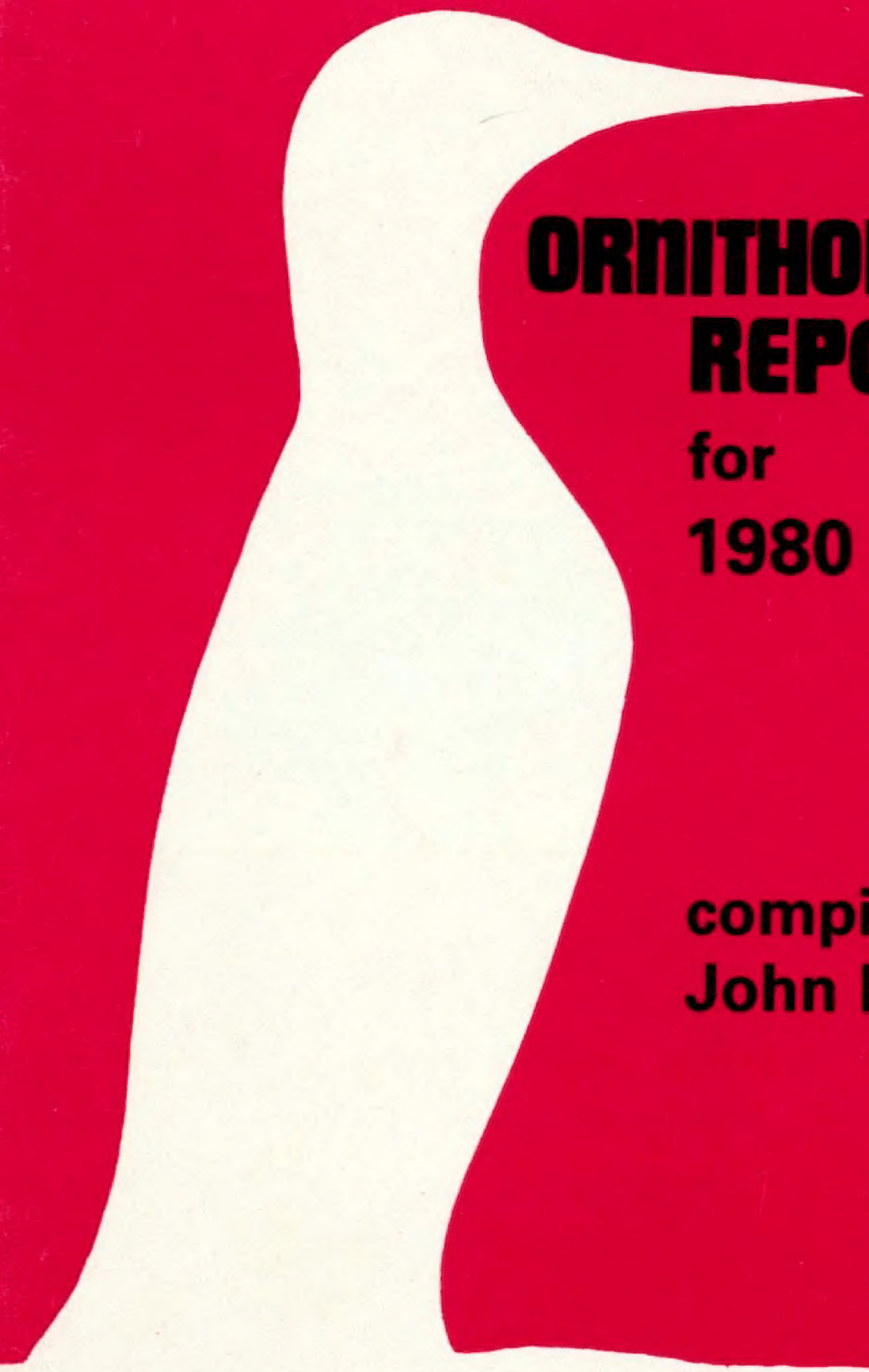
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

for 1980

compiled by
John E. Dale

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Report for 1980 Edited by John E. Dale

During 1980, 268 species were recorded in Yorkshire none of which was new to the County, and 137 of these were proved to have bred successfully. Ruddy Duck, which has spread widely in West and Midland counties in England during the last thirty years, bred for the first time with a pair at Harewood Park rearing two young. This had been anticipated following an increase in records in the County in recent years. The Gannet colony at Bempton continues to increase in numbers, and Gadwall, which has long been established in the Aire Valley east of Leeds, is spreading slowly to new sites. Sadly, Merlin continues to decline in the Southern Pennines, and no information was received on the breeding status of Raven. Stonechat was not proved to breed in the County for the first year since 1971.

Exceptional numbers of wildfowl wintered in Humberside during the first three months. Amongst these were record counts of Wigeon at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during January, with large numbers on the Lower Derwent floods in February, where the highest ever total of Pochard appeared in the same month. There was an unusually large influx of Glaucous Gulls with birds along the coast on 12th January which reached inland sites later in the month. The numbers of Ruff during September were in total a record for the county, and with more wintering here and elsewhere in Northern England it will be interesting to watch future developments. More Lapland Buntings than usual remained in the early months, and during December the flock of Snow Buntings near Spurn was the largest since the 1957–58 winter. The year was not particularly blessed by appearances of outstanding rarities, but the Ross's Gull at Filey in December was only the fifth County record.

Every species recorded in 1980 has been included in the Classified List. However, as every local recorder knows, it is not easy to build up significant information on the more common species at local level, and it is even more difficult at county level. It will be appreciated that the brevity of notes on such species is due to this fact, and I appeal to all involved to bear this in mind when compiling records for the Y.N.U.

I take this opportunity of thanking the large number of observers who support the Y.N.U., either by contributing to the activities of their local societies, each with its own hard working recorder, or by sending their records direct to the appropriate vice-county recorder.

In addition I am grateful to my colleagues on the reports committee for their support, and in particular for the assistance given by my predecessor, J. R. Mather, who has edited this report for the past ten years.

The committee is grateful to D. Braithwaite and P. Leonard for their drawings.

John E. Dale, July 1982

Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers, and have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee where applicable, unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H. *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Occurred along the coast during every month, the peaks off most sea-watch points being in January with 208 at Flamborough on 6th, 170 on the following day and 109 on 13th, (PAL). Northerly movements at Filey of 75 on 16th January and at Barmston of 98 on 26th (SML). At Spurn movement was south during January with 159 on 5th, and 205 on 13th, but north here later with 75 on both 16th February and 16th March. The most marked northerly movement at Spurn occurred during April with 183 to 240 on 3rd to 5th, and from 118 to 130 on 17th to 19th.

Numbers in the latter part of the year were generally lower with 66 south off Withernsea on 15th November (SML) and 107 off Flamborough on 30th. Off Filey 70 flew north on 8th December and 80 were noted off Spurn on 13th.

Along the Humber singles were near Sunk Island on 27th January, at Welton Water from 23rd March to 4th April (PH), and at Whitton Sands on 21st September (TE).

Inland singles were at Hornsea Mere on 24th January and 20th April (RGH), and at Eccup Res. from 23rd September to 2nd October (SPS *et al*).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Most frequent on the coast in January with nine bird days at Flamborough (PAL, DIMW) and singles at Barmston (KR *et al*), Filey (PJD *et al*), Scarborough (RHA) and Spurn. Singles at these sites in February and March with three at Flamborough on 8th March. Late birds were two off Long Nab on 28th April (MF), and singles at Filey Brigg on 1st May (PJD) and at Flamborough on 2nd (DIMW).

One at Flamborough on 1st June (DS).

Less numerous in the autumn than in recent years. The first were two at Flamborough and one at Spurn on 13th September, after which Flamborough had one or two on 12 days plus five on 8th November (PAL, IS). Further singles in the autumn at Scarborough (JRM), Filey Brigg (JHW), Withernsea (SML) and Spurn, where there were three on 28th October.

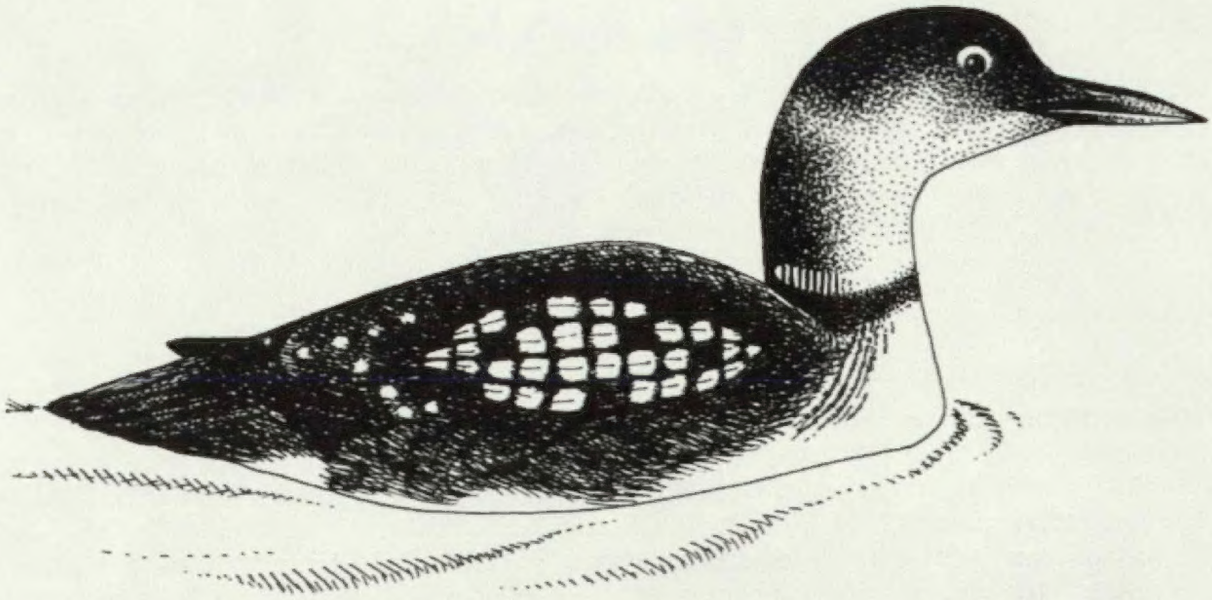
One inland at Ardsley Res. until 3rd January (JM), and one at Eccup Res. from 5th to 11th November (TD *et al*).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

During the first three months singles at Flamborough Head on seven days, plus two on 9th January (DIMW) and three on 2nd March (PAL *et al*). In the same period singles on four days at Filey Brigg (PJD), and at Scarborough on two days plus two on 14th March (MDW, RHA), Two at Flamborough on 2nd May (DIMW).

After one at Cloughton Wyke on 24th August (GC), Flamborough had one to two on five days up to 23rd November with four on 6th November, and Spurn had singles on 21st September, and 6th, and 22nd October. Filey had one on 9th November and another on 6th December (HJW), and one flew south off Withernsea on 15th November (SML).

Singles inland on 10th February at Eccup Res. (TD) and at Pugney's G.P. (PS, PLM). In the autumn singles at Redmires Res. on 29th September (PL), at Thrybergh Res. on 12th October (KJH, SJH), and at Pugneys' G.P. from 15th to 28th October (DP, CEA *et al*). One on Hornsea Mere on 24th December (IJP).



Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Bred in V.C. 61 at Faxfleet Pond, North Duffield, and Kexby and probably at four other waters.

In V.C. 63 reports from 29 waters indicated 66 pairs, 41 of which reared at least 100 young. Forty-two were at Wath Ings on 24th August, and 42 at Mickletown Ings on 3rd September.

Peak counts in V.C. 64 included 23 at Farnham G.P. on 30th August, and 20 at Fairburn Ings on 12th October where seven pairs reared 11 young.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

The wintering flock along the Bamston to Wilsthorpe stretch of the coast had large numbers during the early months with 140 on 1st January, and 137 on 27th, which had declined to 30 by 16th February. 72 were there on 27th December. After strong northerlies 14 were in Filey Bay on 6th December.

Breeding in V.C. 61 was mainly concentrated at Hornsea Mere where 14 pairs held territory but only seven young were raised. Four pairs reared seven young at three other waters in V.C. 61.

On 18 waters in V.C. 63, 34 pairs reared 57 young and for a further 12 pairs breeding results were not known. Wintersett Res. had 34 in late March; Southfield Res. 20 on 26th July and Pugneys' G.P. 26 in mid August.

A very successful breeding season in V.C. 64 where at least 49 pairs reared young. Maxima of 22 on Eccup Res. on 16th May; 44 at Fairburn Ings on 15th September and 17 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 19th October.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

With the exception of two at Bridlington on 25th January (RHA) all the early records were of singles being at Flamborough on 12th and 22nd January (PAL, IS, DIMW), and on 17th February at Filey (AMP) and Hornsea Mere (RGH). One found dead on the beach at Filey on 10th February (per RHA).

Singles at Flamborough on 23rd August (PAL), and Bridlington on 31st (NWA). At Spurn one flew north on 12th October and one south over the R. Humber on 14th December. Three at Flamborough on 1st November and singles on 3rd, 6th, 29th and 30th November (PAL, IS, DIMW). At Bridlington two flew north on 29th November (SML) and singles were at Barmston on 30th November (KR), and in South Bay Scarborough on 16th December (MDW).

The only ones away from the coast were singles at Hornsea Mere from 8th to 16th November and on 4th December (RGH).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

One on the sea at Wilsthorpe on 2nd February (HJW) and one at Flamborough on the same day (PAL). One on Dringhouses Pond near York from the 10th to 23rd February (DBW). On 25th February a badly oiled bird was seen off Filey Brigg, and later found above the tideline on 29th. Although cared for it died on 9th March. Other singles off Filey Brigg on 12th and 16th March (PJD, CEW, AMP).

In the autumn singles at Flamborough on 13th September (AMA *et al*) and 23rd October (DIMW); at Tophill Low Res. on 27th September (BF, KR); off Barmston on 10th November (KR) and 14th December (SCM), and in the harbour at Scarborough on 27th December (JM).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Two at Wintersett Res. on 18th April (PLM), one at Fairburn Ings from 25th April to 2nd May (GRW), and two at Southfield Res. on 12th May (CF) were all in breeding plumage.

One at Hornsea Mere on 20th August (RGH).

Two drifted downstream on the tide past Whitton Sands on 21st September, and one flew inland there on 29th November before flying south up the R. Trent past Blacktoft Sands (TE, STH).

Singles at Pugney's G.P. on 4th October (PS *et al*) and at The Mere, Scarborough on 5th and 8th October (RNH, MF).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

No reports were received that indicated any significant change in breeding status.

The largest movements were recorded from Flamborough with 1540 on 7th and 1460 on 27th January being the peaks early in the year of birds moving north.

At Filey 150 an hour were passing on 9th and 10th July and off Flamborough 1060 were noted on 9th August. The peak of southerly movement at Spurn in August came on 21st with 340, and 30th with 312.

Year-end peaks included 500 an hour passing Filey Brigg on 7th November, where 1655 went north on 17th December, as did 400 an hour on 27th December. Counts at Flamborough Head of 1,400 to 1,500 on 9th and 29th November and 6th December, were overshadowed by 6,200 on 7th December.

Blue phase birds were noted on nine dates at Filey, eight at Flamborough, and one at Spurn being singles on all but one day.

Interesting inland records were mainly in May and June of birds in flight. In V.C. 62 two at Jugga Howe on 4th May, one at Eller Beck on 5th and one at Seamer G.P. on 4th June (MF). Six at Hasty Bank of which four were on ledges on 28th June. Singles at Hornsea Mere on five dates from 30th May to 18th July. Further inland in V.C. 63 two were over Blacktoft Sands on 6th June and eventually went east to the R. Humber, and one flew south over Wakefield on 9th June. One at Langsett Res. on 14th September flew off west.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

One flew south offshore at Spurn on 10th August (JCL, DS). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee. Two flew north off Flamborough Head on 9th August (PAL). Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

Singles flew north off Flamborough Head on 9th August (PAL) and on 31st August (AMA, JH *et al*). One flew south close inshore at Filey Brigg on 22nd August (JL).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Rather a quiet year for this species. First one north at Filey Brigg on 1st June and two on 22nd. Flamborough had two north on 16th July then singles on four days as had Filey on 22nd and 31st July, and Spurn on 15th July. The bulk of the records came in August with northerly movements peaking on 22nd and 23rd. On the first date, three each at Scarborough and Spurn, and 75 at Flamborough, and on the following day 191 at Flamborough, 33 at Filey Brigg and 25 at Spurn.

Smaller numbers at these localities on other dates during the month, and up to five off Hornsea on several days. The few September records included two on 1st and one on 10th at Scarborough, and one at Spurn on 20th, and also one on 11th October. Late singles in November at Filey and Flamborough on 7th, and Filey on 29th when two were off Flamborough.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

January records are quite exceptional but Flamborough (PAL *et al*) had one on 2nd, and two were there and at Scarborough (MDW) on 7th, all flying north.

The next was one at Filey on 13th April followed by ten at Flamborough on 20th. Small numbers at both places and at Spurn during May with 12 at Flamborough on 22nd, and 25th. Numbers increased during June, and on 4th at Spurn in misty conditions a total of 53 were on and over the R. Humber. Flamborough had 40 on 21st June and 77 on 22nd, and on 28th a genuine peak in the northerly movement occurred with 300 there and 47 at Filey and 45 at Scarborough. A Further 60 off Scarborough on 1st July. More regular during July, the highest counts being 111 at Flamborough on 16th; 181 south at Filey on 26th, and 40 on the Sea at Spurn on 27th.

Recorded daily throughout August with 50 south at Spurn on 3rd and 102 at Flamborough on 9th. The peak of northerly movement occurred on 22nd, 23rd and 31st. On 22nd August 104 at Spurn; 584 at Flamborough and 60 at Scarborough. On 23rd, 103 at Spurn, 465 at Flamborough and 201 at Filey, and on 31st August these sites had 136, 460 and 82 respectively.

Smaller numbers at the regular watchpoints in September and October. In November one at Filey on 5th and two on 7th; one at Flamborough on 29th and two on 7th December, and finally one north off Filey on 27th December.

Inland one picked up dead at Thorpe Salvin and another at Crofton (which died later) on 18th September, and a third found at Lund on 19th was released at Carlton Marsh on 26th September.

Birds showing characteristics of the Balearic race *P.p. mauretanicus* were two at Flamborough on 13th and 16th July; two on 9th and one on 10th August (PAL, IS); five on 23rd August when singles were at Filey (AMP) and Spurn, and one at Flamborough on 31st when two were off Hornsea (WFC). Singles at Flamborough on 1st and 14th September (PAL *et al*).

Birds showing characteristics of the eastern Mediterranean race *P.p. yelkouan* were at Flamborough on 31st August, 16th October (two) and 7th December (AMA, DGH, DIMW).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

One flew north off Flamborough Head on 31st August (AMA, PAL *et al*). Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One north at Filey Brigg on 20th July (MJG). One brought in by Scarborough fishermen was released at the lighthouse on 4th October (RNH). One south at Spurn on 16th October.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorrhoa*

At Spurn in October one over the R. Humber on 12th and one north offshore on 16th and one off the Point on 25th. One south at Filey Brigg on 7th November (PRC).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

The colony on Bempton Cliffs showed a further increase to 280 pairs which reared approximately 250 young. The exact numbers were difficult to assess as part of the colony could not be seen from the cliff top (SJD).

The first big movement was at Flamborough on 20th June when 565 passed, and Filey had 519 south on 25th July. Peak numbers occurred during August. On 9th, 705 at Flamborough and 272 at Filey; on 22nd, a day of heavy sea passage, 270 north at Spurn, and 1,764 at Flamborough where 1,366 passed on the following day when Filey had 816 and Spurn had over 200. On 11th October a southerly movement of 275 (mainly juveniles) at Spurn and 150 at Filey. At Filey 500 south on 7th and 188 on 8th were the only significant numbers in November.

Singles appeared inland over York City centre on 21st March; at Fairburn Ings on 30th April, and Swillington Ings on 8th June. One at Halsham on 14th June with fishing net around its bill was released later at Withernsea. Singles over Wheldrake Ings on 2nd September and Whitton Sands on 2nd November.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

12 pairs bred north of Filey Brigg, and one pair bred on Flamborough Head. Maximum at any sea watch point was 107 at Filey on 2nd August.

The roost at Hornsea Mere had birds regularly with peaks of 50 during January; 38 during February and 35 in October.

Reported regularly along the R. Humber in small numbers including ten going east at Blacktoft Sands on 20th March. Further inland, seven were going east at Swinefleet on 21st January. V.C. 63 had 19 records of one to three, and V.C. 64 had 13 records including five over Hay-a-Park G.P. on 16th August. These inland records covered every month. Bolton-on-Swale G.P. had birds regularly except for June to September, and a maximum of 15 in March and April.

White-headed birds showing characters of the continental race *P.c. sinensis* were at Spurn on 23rd March and at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough from 23rd to 29th March.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

About 15 pairs bred at Bempton Cliffs (SJD).

Maximum counts at Flamborough Head of 63 on 6th January, 65 on 22nd August, 80 on 19th September and 65 on 29th November.

Inland singles at Rivelin Res. on 13th January, which was found dead on 27th, and at Knotford Nook from 27th November to 6th December. An unusual record at Wintersett Res. on 4th May of four flying east with two Cormorants.

Addition to 1979 Report: One at Denaby Ings on 12th December.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Singles at Fairburn Ings on 1st December (CW), and at Stocks Res. on 26th December (JF).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Bred in V.C. 61 in the Lower Derwent where there were eight pairs at a now established heronry. In V.C. 62 about ten pairs each at heronries at Mowthorpe and in Kirkdale. No breeding reports from V.C. 63. Five heronries in V.C. 64 all of less than ten pairs except the Healaugh heronry where 37 nests were occupied on 19th April. Two small heronries of about five nests in V.C. 65 plus one of at least 16 nests near Kilpin.

Post breeding season gatherings included 10 to 15 regularly at Wath Ings from June to December; 14 at Fairburn Ings on 4th August and at Lindley Res. on 28th September; 17 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 11th October, and 18 at Bishop Monkton on 15th November.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

An immature at Flamborough Head on 24th August (PAL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

One came in off the sea at Bempton and continued to fly south-eastwards on 14th June (SJD).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Hornsea Mere had up to 53 during January, and later in the year the moulting herd peaked at 161 during July falling to 90 on 14th September. Up to 40 were on the R. Hull near Driffield in late June.

Fairburn Ings had up to 70 in the early months, and a moulting herd of 142 on 1st August.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*

The wintering herd on the Lower Derwent had 171, of which 24 were first year, on 1st January then 196 on 27th January; 187 (11 first year) on 23rd February, and the last significant numbers were 92 on 4th March. Two immatures remained near Bubwith until at least 5th May.

Fairburn Ings had 60 on 24th February, and 80 flew north-east over Hull on 9th March. Smaller herds included 15 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 20th January; 16 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 25th January; 22 at Church Fenton on 12th February, and 23 east over Blacktoft Sands on 24th February.

The first to return were on 31st October with 16 at Wheldrake, eight at Ewden and three at Blacktoft Sands, Numbers at less usual sites included 14 at Malham Tarn on 6th November; 21 over Southfield Res. on 8th; 18 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th November, and 20 on Pocklington Canal on 27th December.

The Lower Derwent had 169 on 21st December and 263 by the 31st (York O.C.), which is the highest count since 1966.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Records in the early months from more than 20 waters particularly in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 usually of less than 20 birds. Larger herds included from 28 to 44 in the Beal-Birkin — Bryam Park area up to 17th February, and the early maximum at Fairburn Ings was 39 on 11th February. Further north 11 were at Great Langton on 30th March, and at Fish Lake below Mickle Fell three of a party of six were found in April to have died from lead poisoning. Singles at Wintersett Res. on the 1st May and at Wheldrake Ings on 18th.

Six at Seamer G.P. and at Flamborough on 9th October, and six at Whitley near Knottingley on 11th were early arrivals before a more obvious return in November, Autumn records from many sites but the maxima were at Fairburn Ings with 45 on 1st December, and Birkin with 37 on 28th December when a further 37 were at Aughton. The Ribble Valley maximum for the year was 17 on 21st December and that at Bolton-on-Swale 15 on 31st December.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Two that frequented Givendale from 2nd January to 23rd March were seen over Staveley Lagoon and at Farnham G.P. on 6th January. Three at Whitton Sands on 6th January (DBC) and one at Hornsea Mere on 2nd March (BF). Singles at Bretton Park on 4th April (GC) and at Seamer G.P. on 30th May (MF).

Records of singles at Welton Water on 8th August (NAB); at Whitton Sands on 9th August (TAE) and 30th October (DIMW), and at Hornsea Mere from 1st to 9th November (RGH) possibly all refer to the same individual which could be of feral origin.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge has 500 to 600 in January and February with peaks of 1,200 on 13th January; over 1,000 on five days in the first two weeks of February, including 1,430 on 8th, then declining to the last count of 440 on 24th (AC).

In autumn 15 returned on 31st August, and 18 on 22nd September increasing to 350 by 5th October. The maximum was 650 on 29th November but generally only 200 to 400 were present during the last two months.

Skeins passing over Blacktoft Sands would be mainly of birds moving between the Refuge and their feeding grounds. The largest numbers were early in the year with 700 on 30th January and 1,700 on 3rd February. 25 were back on 28th September then 350 on 10th October and up to 300 in November.

A flock of about 250 fed between Hornsea and Bewholme from 15th to 24th February (WFC). At Filey 67 flew north on the morning of 16th February, and 260 also north during the afternoon (PJD) the same flock having earlier passed Bridlington (CJS).

A rather late date for a large skein was 1st April when 200 flew north-west over Carlton Marsh (PS, KFG).

Skeins of up to 120 were reported from many inland localities up to late March and from mid October, there being no obvious days of movement except on 17th February in V.C. 64. 450 flew north at Bridlington on 12th November (CJS) and 150 south at Elsecarr on 16th December.

Ones and two appeared at a number of places and some remained for long periods. Not all of these would be wild birds.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Two at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 9th February and singles at four other localities near Harrogate until 7th April. One at Filey Brigg on 26th February (TH). A small party north-east over Bankfoot, Bradford on 22nd April. One on Castle Howard Lake on 1st June (MF). Two at Harewood Park on 14th December. The one at Fairburn Ings remained for a fourth year.

Three of the Greenland race *A. a. flavirostris* at Staveley lagoon and Farnham G.P. on 6th January, and at Givendale from 13th January to 23rd March.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

One at Harewood Park from the 9th to 17th August was unlikely of wild origin (ECS, SPS *et al*) and not therefore submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Grey-lag Goose *Anser anser*

Continues to spread to new breeding sites in V.C. 61. At Hornsea Mere seven pairs reared 15 young. Breeding occurred at Rise Park, Burton Constable and East Park (Hull), and scattered pairs were on ings in the Dewent Valley. Breeding may take place at Londesbrough Park which held 140 on 26th August.

In V.C. 65 breeding probably occurred near Wensley.

Small parties of from one to twelve at many localities particularly in V.C. 64. Larger counts included 47 over Richmond on 1st January and 34 near Kilpin on 2nd March. The Hornsea Mere maximum was 254 on 11th September with up to 230 in many months.

32 at Tophill Low on 2nd September; 75 along the Lower Derwent on 4th October then up to 110 by 30th November and 89 on 27th December; 102 at Castle Howard Lake on 22nd November; 40 over Huddersfield on 27th December, and 62 near Bolton-on-Swale on 31st December.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Single blue phase birds at Hornsea Mere from 14th February to early April; flying south over Naburn S.F. on 5th April and at Wheldrake Ings up to 22nd April. One after this date at Castle Howard may have been the same bird. Singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 21st April and at either Harewood Park or Eccup Res. from 14th May to 6th November. A white phase bird at Harewood Park on 28th December.

Two flew south at Spurn on 14th May and north on 15th May.

It is not possible to establish whether any of these were of wild origin.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

The total numbers within the county continue to increase with higher peaks than previously at several of the regular sites. The tendency for small numbers of breeding pairs to appear at new localities continues especially in V.C. 61 and V.C. 63.

At Hornsea Mere 18 pairs raised 32 goslings, and at Bretton Park there were 34 goslings on 18th May. These two sites had peaks in August of 133 and 269 respectively.

The highest counts came as usual from the Wharfedale and Nidderdale strongholds with 500 at Farnham G.P. on 6th January and 800 at Givendale on 20th, as maxima in the early months. In the autumn 617 at Nosterfield G.P. on 6th September and 492 at Eccup Res. on 17th; 500 at Masham G.P. on 5th October and 520 at Harewood Park on 10th; and 600 at Givendale during November.

From 30 to 100 were at many other sites and would be of birds from the above mentioned places but exceptions to these were perphaps the 67 between Bubwith and Aughton on 20th January; 193 at Stocks Res. in the autumn and 160 in the Ribble Valley on 21st December.

Of a catch of 655 on Beauly Firth on 12th July 54 per cent of the controls were of Yorkshire origin and mostly from the Harrogate area.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

The origin of many of the birds at inland sites must be in doubt particularly as two pairs bred at Harewood Park and seven young became free flying. The value of publishing the many records of from one to four individuals throughout the County is dubious.

Inland records that were more likely to be of genuine wild birds included nine at Wheldrake on 4th January and five on 20th; 16 over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd April and 15 over Fairburn Ings on the same day. On 12th October nine at Gouthwaite Res. four at Fewston Res. and nine at Stocks Res. including one ringed on Spitzbergen in July 1977. Five at Thrybergh Res. from 13th to 22nd October, and two at Round Hill Res. on 27th and Masham G.P. on 28th October.

Coastal sightings commenced with four south off Filey Brigg on 27th April. The bulk of the remainder were in October with seven records in the Spurn area from 8th to 28th, including 12 on 12th; six between Barmston and Wilsthorpe from 10th to 12th and 15 at Barmston on 15th. An adult and juvenile at Hornsea Mere from 21st October to 2nd November then 18 arrived there on 3rd December and remained to the year end.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

The Humber shore at Spurn held even more than in previous years the early maximum being 176 on 13th January and the autumn peak 260 on 3rd and 4th November. The birds were present daily to 15th March (87) then sporadically to 1st April with the last on 14th. First of autumn were two on 20th September, then daily from 25th reaching 111 by 24th October and 170 on 30th. After the early November peak, numbers fluctuated from single figures to peaks of 186 on 16th November and 160 on 13th December. Variation was probably mainly due to disturbance by bait diggers. No first-year birds were noted at Spurn during the autumn. Small parties passed various watch points along the coast in the early and late months including seven at Barmston on 1st January. Birds showing characters of the pale-bellied race *B.b. hrota* were at Barmston on 16th February; on the Humber at Spurn on 24th February, 5th and 16th November and 2nd December, and three passed Flamborough on 7th December as did 12 dark-bellied on 30th November.

Inland five at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 24th February and 11 on 6th November; three at Newington Flash from 19th to 24th March, and singles at Pugney's G.P. on 5th April and Wath Ings on 21st May.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

One south-west over Wath Ings on 9th July and one at Castle Howard Lake on 27th July (TB). Published with the escape/feral proviso.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One flew up Wharfedale near Carthick Wood on 4th March (CSVY), and singles were at Bretton Park on 7th July (NPS) and in the Whitton Sands area from 12th to 27th July (TAE, STH).

Published with the escape/feral proviso.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Bred at Brandesburton G.P., Tophill Low Res. Blacktoft Sands (30 young), in the Ribble Valley near Sawley, and at Bolton-on-Swale where two pairs reared six young.

The Humber held large numbers for much of the year the estuary count for the north shore giving 757 on 24th February. 500 at Cherry Cob Sands on 13th January and 300 on 7th June. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had over 100 from March to November with 980 on 9th July; 113 juveniles on 27th July; and 520 on 2nd October. The Spurn maximum was 141 on 1st March where eastward movement was most marked in July and August (total of 393), and southern movement in July (169 on 19th) and September. Flamborough had movements of 120 on 13th January, and 91 south on 19th January.

Recorded inland in every month usually in parties of ten or less with most records in February, September and December. Fairburn Ings had 26 on 26th June and 24 on 1st November, and Eccup Res. 20 on 30th August.

Westerly movement at Blacktoft Sands totalled 726 in August and September with a peak of 323 on 21st September on which day the movement was reflected elsewhere with 22 over Fairburn Ings, 87 west at Knostrop S.F., and 50 west at Pugney's G.P.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

A female at Tophill Low Res. on 19th April. Two males at Sleightholmedale on 17th February had been there since the previous year and one was still present on 5th May. Singles and pairs are on several ornamental lakes and ponds in the county.

Published with the escape proviso.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge again had the highest numbers ever for the County with 4,300 on 1st January; 7,800 on 13th; 9,600 on 15th, down to 3,300 on 4th February then falling to under 1,000 by the month end, and 1,000 again on 23rd March. At the year-end 3,220 by 1st November; 4,400 on 16th November and a peak of 6,200 on 3rd December (AC, DBC).

Huge numbers also appeared in the Lower Derwent with 3,580 on 20th January; 5,584 on 17th February and 2,300 on 16th March; and at the year end 2,352 on 16th November and 2,442 on 14th December (York O.C.).

750 at Blacktoft Sands on 17th January. Maxima at Hornsea Mere of 920 on 15th January and 290 on 23rd November. 300 at Tophill Low Res. on 30th March (NAB). The highest counts of southerly coastal movements were at Spurn with 153 on 1st and 131 on 28th September, and 222 on 1st November when 137 passed Filey Brigg.

Further west and north inland 600 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st February and 435 on 30th December; 350 in the Ribble Valley on 25th February and 500 on 9th November, and 118 at Gouthwaite Res. on 21st September.

Three females were with young on Bowes Moor on 6th July and 12 males in eclipse were at Grassholme Res. on 29th June.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Hornsea Mere had larger numbers than any other water with maxima of 110 in January and February; 105 on 21st October and 155 most of November. 56 at Fairburn Ings on 27th September.

Two pairs bred at Tophill Low Res. and single pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, Mickletown (six young), Newmillerdam (eight young) and Blacktoft Sands (failed).

Teal *Anas crecca*

The Lower Derwent Valley had 2,370 on 20th January; 2,966 on 17th February and 2,024 on 14th December.

Early counts at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge were low with a maximum of 320 on 9th February but much higher numbers in autumn with peaks of 1,400 on 25th September; 1,330 on 11th November, 1,750 on 23rd November and 900 on 31st December.

Coastal numbers were generally fairly low except for 200 off Barmston on 28th September and 426 south at Spurn on 1st November. Elsewhere in V.C. 61, Tophill Low Res. had 450 on 13th January and 405 on 19th November and Hornsea Mere, 670 on 22nd November.

Nine waters in V.C.'s 63, 64 and 65 had 100 to 400, mainly early in the year, with bigger flocks at Potteric Carr 400 on 5th January and 700 on 16th November; Fairburn Ings 500 in early January and early December; Gouthwaite Res. 502 on 19th September, and Blacktoft Sands had an exceptional autumn peak of 1,750 on 5th October, 70 at Cayton Carrs on 6th February.

Interesting breeding records from Gouthwaite Res. with 59 young in nine broods, and Hatfield Moor where 11 pairs bred.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

The largest numbers were along the north bank of the Humber with 8,400 on 27th January and at least 8,220 on 28th December of which 7,450 were on the Wildfowl Refuge. The Refuge had 5,850 on 6th February and 4,000 in mid November.

Seven waters had maxima between 600 and 2,000 in January, November and December. 2,500 at Hornsea Mere on 6th January and 23rd November, 5,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 27th January and 3,000 on 30th November; 3,400 on the Lower Derwent on 20th January, and 3,094 at Fairburn Ings on 5th October.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

With the exception of 60 at Cherry Cob Sands on 13th January, and counts on the Lower Derwent of 27 on 20th January; 105 on 17th February and 92 on 16th March all the early reports were of less than 20.

After a scattering of records in August they were more widespread after the first week of September. Westerly movement over Whitton Sands and Blacktoft Sands in September with 67 on 8th; 53 on 15th; 75 on 17th; 80 on 23rd; 61 on 28th, and 125 on 4th October. Blacktoft Sands also had 67 on 4th October, and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge 94 on 12th October; 80 in early November then 70 late in the month down to 26 by 21st December. Numbers elsewhere were small apart from 15 at Southfield Res. on 4th November, and 20 over Thorne Moors on 23rd November.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

The first at Swillington on 12th April, one at Blacktoft on 15th and two on 16th, and two each at Aughton, Mickletown and Seamer on 20th to 22nd April. One to two at seven waters in May, and at Spurn and Potteric Carr in late July. On the Lower Derwent in June breeding may have taken place as distraction display was noted. Singles at seven places in August and September with the last at Nosterfield G.P. on 22nd September. Breeding suspected near Ripon but not proved.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

One at Blacktoft Sands from 27th to 29th September (AG), and a female at Hornsea Mere on 16th November (RGH).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Five pairs bred at Tophill Low Res. and one pair each at Hornsea Mere, Wheldrake Ings, Bubwith, Blacktoft Sands, Potterie Carr and Worsbrough Res. Four pairs bred at Wath Ings (27 young) and three pairs at Fairburn Ings (19 young).

Tophill Low Res. had 51 on 13th January; Potteric Carr 50 on 20th; 62 on the Lower Derwent on 17th February; and at Wheldrake Ings 60 on 9th March and 70 during April were the maxima for the early months. Higher numbers in the autumn particularly at Fairburn Ings with monthly peaks of over 100 including 199 on 15th September. Elsewhere 47 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 6th and 87 at Denaby Ings on 7th September and 60 at Potterie Carr on 30th November.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A male at Tophill Low Res. on 29th June (TMC).

Pochard*Aythya ferina*

Eight waters had peaks of 100 to 225 during the first three months but in February the Lower Derwent Valley floods held the largest gatherings ever recorded in the County. 1,360 were between Aughton and Bubwith on 10th February (DIMW), and 1,100 on 16th (HOB), and over a larger area 3,115 on 17th (York O.C.) and 2,240 between Bubwith and Ellerton on 20th (NAB).

At least 32 pairs bred of which 22 reared 87 young, and these were mainly in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64.

In the autumn six waters had peaks of over 100 including 600 at Hornsea Mere on 23rd November; 270 at Fairburn Ings on 31st December, and 254 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 16th December.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

All the records were of drakes and possibly refer to only two individuals. At Tophill Low Res. one on four dates from 6th January to 5th February (KR); two on 21st February (FJT *et al*); two on 13th April (NAB), and one on 7th, 17th, 27th April, and 4th May (PD *et al*). One at Hornsea Mere on 18th (DAB), 24th and 26th March (AMA) and 16th November (RGH), and one at Fairburn Ings from 14th April to 2nd May (GRW*et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A male at Tophill Low Res. on 14th and 15th September (PD, KR).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Bred in all vice counties with four sites in V.C. 61, and one each in V.C. 62 and 65, but the majority were in V.C. 63, with a total of 47 pairs at 18 sites and 222 young reared by 34 of these pairs, and in V.C. 64 with 48 pairs including the 26 pairs at Fairburn Ings which reared 122 young.

In the early months 11 waters had maxima over 200 including 700 at Tophill Low Res. on 13th January, and 470 at Hornsea Mere on 27th April. Autumn maxima were in general slightly higher, with 657 at Fairburn Ings on 24th August, and 520 at Hornsea Mere on the same day; 595 at Tophill Low Res. on 12th December, and 304 at Mickletown Ings on 27th December.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Southerly coastal movements mainly in January, February, October and Novemer usually of less than six individuals. Exceptions being at Spurn; 13 on 19th January, 18 on 26th October and 19 on 27th; at Flamborough, 18 on 26th October, and at Filey Brigg, 19 on 2nd and 14 on 5th November.

Two north at Long Nab on 28th April.

Few notable inland records apart from 16 at Eccup Res., which came in from the east on 14th October, and nine west at Whitton Sands on 29th November, otherwise one to three mostly on single days at many waters during every month.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Only small numbers during the early months, 17 at Flamborough and nine at Spurn on 13th January being the highest counts. Increased movement at Spurn in May with on the 10th five north, 20 south and 10 north-east from the Humber. Larger numbers from mid October onwards including 30 on the Humber at Spurn plus 25 flying north and 21 south on 2nd November; at Filey 20 north and 19 south on 1st November; at Flamborough 45 on the same day and 55 there on 30th November. 47 in Filey Bay on 2nd December and up to 36 there for the rest of the month.

Inland two at Gouthwaite Res. on 14th March; three at Broomhead Res. on 8th November and one at Pugney's G.P. on 9th November.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Coastal records for the early months were mainly in the Scarborough area with seven in Cornelian Bay on 6th January and one on 1st March, and in South Bay nine on 25th January, 12 on 9th February and three on 24th March. Three flew north at Filey on 9th February and seven south on 23rd. Spurn had one to three on eight days between 11th October and 13th December plus 11 north on 18th October. Also during October and early November Filey and Flamborough had one to five on several days, and also at the latter place 10 north on 29th October, eight on 8th November and 10 on 30th. One off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 27th December.

Hornsea Mere had singles regularly from January to mid March and one to two in late October to 2nd November. Singles at Stocks Res. from 28th September to 19th October (JF); at Fairburn Ings from 20th October to 16th November (GRW), and at Ulley Res. from 4th to 12th November. One at Welton Water on 21st October (PH); two at Chelker Res. from 25th to 28th October (MD) and one at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd November (BF).

Correction to 1979 Report: first line should read between 17th and 30th October.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Numbers along the coast were low until July with 71 at Filey on 12th January being the largest. On 2nd July a northerly movement of 121 at Withersea (SML) and 165 at Scarborough where there were 120 on 30th July (MDW). Regular passage at Spurn mainly from 19th July to mid November the monthly peaks being 147 in July; 200 in October and 142 in November, also up to 96 on the R. Humber about 1st August and 110 on 10th November. 400 on the sea off Ulrome on 20th September (BS & SP) and 113 at Barmston on 28th. 102 north at Filey Brigg on 11th October and over 100 on five dates at Flamborough including 154 on 1st November.

Westerly movement at Whitton Sands and Blacktoft Sands of 43 on 25th July; 37 on 27th; 50 on 13th August and 150 on 21st September. Also inland, one to six on 20 waters in every month except June, September and November plus 10 west at Wintersett Res. on 27th July; 16 at Warland Res. on 2nd August and seven at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th August.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Three south at Filey on 4th and at Flamborough on 13th January, and four in Cornelian Bay on 6th. Five at Flamborough on 7th February, and during March four north at Filey on 21st and three at Spurn on 31st. Five at Filey on 18th April, otherwise up to two in South Bay Scarborough and records on two other days at Spurn in the early months. Five north at Scarborough on 5th July and eight north at Spurn on 14th, where singles occurred on three dates before October when the species become more frequent. At Spurn five north and five south on 12th October and six south on 23rd; and at Flamborough nine on 18th October; 11 on 25th November; seven on 30th November and on 12th December.

The only one inland was at Wintersett Res. on 18th December.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Rather small numbers noted along the coast with the 26th October being the most obvious day of movement with 20 at Spurn, 12 at Flamborough and 16 at Filey.

Several waters held from 12 to 30 both early and late in the year, but Hornsea Mere had the highest numbers with maxima of 100 on 16th January; 250 on 17th February; 220 on 30th March; 235 on 5th April down to 50 by 30th, and last on 11th May, up again to 50 by mid October and then 230 from 23rd November to the year-end. Peaks elsewhere of 40 at Welton Water on 6th; and 35 at Wintersett Res. on 12th January; 39 at Gouthwaite Res. on 9th February; 40 at Wheldrake Ings on 9th March; 43 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 23rd and 50 at Tophill Low Res. on 30th March, and 32 at Fairburn Ings on 14th April. Most had left by 23rd May and the return commenced on 12th October, but between these dates were more records than usual with singles on several days at Pugney's G.P., Newmillerdam, Thorpe Marsh, Fairburn Ings, Wheldrake and three in the Ribble Valley on 30th July.

In the autumn 34 at Gouthwaite Res. on 26th October and 30th November, and 25 each at Wintersett Res. and Pugney's G.P. in late December.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

The only adult drakes were one at Bubwith on 26th January (DIMW), and one at Ingbirchworth Res. from 14th to 31st December. The remainder of the records were of *redheads*. Singles early in the year at Fairburn Ings on 1st January, and from 13th February to 20th April (SCM); Hornsea Mere from 19th to 27th January, 3rd February and 2nd and 8th March (RGH *et al*); Ingbirchworth Res. from 4th January to 6th April (GMY *et al*); Bilberry Res. on 29th February (NL), and Wintersett Res. from 2nd January to 9th February with a second on 13th January (PS *et al*).

One at Tophill Low on 31st October and 1st November (KR); one at Fairburn Ings from 1st November to 14th December (GRW); one off Flamborough Head on 6th November (DIMW) and one on the R. Ribble at Settle on 9th November (BSh). Singles at Hornsea Mere on 15th and 16th November (RGH); at Pugney's G.P. on 16th November and from 8th to 31st December (PS *et al*); on seven days only at Wintersett Res. from 2nd November to 31st December (PS *et al*); flying west at Blacktoft Sands on 26th November (AG); at Eccup Res. on 30th November and 1st December and at Worsbrough Res. from 2nd to 11th December (PP).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

The only breeding record was of two nests found at Stocks Res. (JF). Inland, ones and twos at 13 waters up to May, and at 10 waters from August, plus three each at Eccup Res. and Blackmoorfoot Res. on 26th October, and two each at Swillington and Fairburn Ings on same day. Four flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd June. Fairly regular along the coast with one to six involved except for nine north on 2nd July and 13 south on 26th October at Filey Brigg, and 11 north at Scarborough also on 2nd July.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

At least nine broods of young seen, three being on the R. Ure, one at Gouthwaite Res., three on the R. Ribble and two on the R. Wharfe, and a male was on the R. Rye in V.C. 62 during May and June.

Apart from the breeding records none occurred between 13th April and 4th October except for two males which summered at Eccup Res. and disappeared in early August when flightless. This reservoir again held large numbers with maxima of 159 on 20th January; 122 on 17th February; 95 on 3rd March; 63 on 30th November and 77 on 28th December. Leighton Res. was the only other water to hold more than 50 with 62 on 6th January, 96 on 17th February and 80 on 20th December. Elsewhere in V.C. 64; 42 at Chelker Res. on 19th January; 38 at Bishop Monkton on 26th January; 27 at Stocks Res. on 10th February; 29 at Malham Tarn on 1st April and 32 at Givendale on 26th December.

Occurred on 23 waters in V.C. 63 but few remained more than a day with no party of more than eight apart from 11 at Blacktoft Sands on 27th October. Similarly sparse in V.C. 61 except for 14 at Hornsea Mere on 8th March and 19 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 12th October. Coastal records were few and mainly in the first three months, although the highest number was on 18th November when nine passed Flamborough Head.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

The steady increase in records since 1974 continued in 1980. Four males and a female arrived at Harewood Park in late March. Two of the males departed in April and a third in June. The pair remaining bred rearing two young. The first breeding record for the County. One or two were present throughout autumn until late December (ECS, HRS *et al*). Two at Pauls Pond, Leeds on 3rd May (MS) and a male at Golden Acre Park on 13th May (ECS). One at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd May (GDM). Fairburn Ings had a male from 9th to 11th May, and 13th June to the end of August; a second bird from 23rd to 25th August then two on 13th October; and singles on 19th October and from 22nd to 30th November (GRW, CW *et al*). One at Sandbeck Park on 17th August (KJH). A pair at Tophill Low Res. on 28th August the male being seen on 29th, and the female on 4th, 7th, 9th, 14th and 15th September (PD, KR). Singles at Treeton Dyke on 3rd September (DH), Hornsea Mere on 21st September (RGH), Ingbirchworth Res. on 17th October (CB) and Mickletown Ings on 25th October and 16th November (BT). Wintersett Res. had one on 22nd September then up to four at the month end, and one to two to 6th December (PS *et al*). Five males flew south at Spurn on 31st October.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

One at Flamborough Head on 20th September (DS) and another one there on 21st September (AG *et al*).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One flew south-east over Easington and Kilnsea on 29th March (NAB *et al*). One came in off the sea at Osgodby, Scarborough on 15th April (WCC).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

V.C. 61: One flying south at Spurn on 7th April as were most of the other singles on 7th, 10th, 17th, 26th, 27th, and 28th May, 18th August and 24th September. A male at Filey Brigg on 13th April (TH) then one at Wheldrake on 16th (PA) and a female at Tophill Low Res. on 29th April (PWI) Hornsea Mere had singles on 5th, 10th, 20th, 25th and 27th May and two *creamcrowns* on 9th May and singles on 26th August (RGH) and 31st December (IJB). Apart from an adult male at Aughton from 13th to 30th September the remainder were all reported as *cream crowns*, as

follows: singles at Tophill Low Res. on 16th May, 29th August and 14th October (PD, PWI, BSP); at Flamborough on 26th May; at Filey on 24th August (PJD) and at Wheldrake Ings on 16th and 28th August (ARP).

V.C. 63: At Blacktoft Sands four during April commencing with an immature male on 1st; an adult female from 11th to 16th; a female from 16th April to 2nd May and another from 24th to 27th April. 12 in May with one to two daily and three on 28th. Nine during June with one to three daily, two remaining to 8th July. An adult female on 31st July then five during autumn with the last on 12th September. Elsewhere in the vice-county Thorne Moors had two on 5th and one on 13th June, 5th and 14th July, and Hatfield Moor had single *creamcrowns* on 10th, 14th, 21st, 28th June and 6th July.

V.C. 64: A female over Fairburn Ings on 23rd May and single *creamcrowns* on 9th June and 17th August (GRW, MB).

1979 additions: singles on Hatfield Moor on 10th April, at Wath Ings on 24th April; at Thrybergh Tip on 3rd June; Thorne Moors on 9th June; Swinefleet on 9th June, 4th July and 8th September, and at Almholme on 12th August.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

V.C. 61: On each of the Humber Estuary counts of 27th January, 24th February and 28th December five were counted between Goole and Faxfleet (DBC). One at Kilnsea on 19th January, a male at Welton on 26th, and a male and *ringtail* near Patrington on 29th March. Singles at Hornsea Mere on 30th March, 19th October, 13th and 21st November. A male at Dane's Dyke on 1st March, and a *ringtail* at Flamborough on 19th April. Single males at Filey on 19th January, 2nd February and 10th March, and a ringtail on 2nd February. Two at Cowden on 24th December.

V.C. 62: One at Commondale and a male near Robin Hood's Bay during January. Adult males at Long Nab, Burniston and Cayton Carrs on 6th February, and 21st and 24th at Cayton. One at Bransdale on 1st March. Single males at Brompton Carr and Seamer G.P. during December.

V.C. 63: During the early months up to four on the south-western moors; three on the moors west of Halifax; up to four at Blacktoft Sands (with five on 29th February), and others on Thorne Moors and a male on Hatfield Moors. Singles at Swinefleet Common and Mickletown in January. In the autumn the south-western moors had a maximum of seven in early December, Thorne Moors had four on 23rd November and five different individuals were on Hatfield Moor whilst five were at Blacktoft during December. Singles at four other sites would be birds from these areas, and Mickletown Ings had two different birds in October.

V.C. 64: No reports of successful rearing of young and one pair known to have lost eggs from a nest. Many sightings in the winter months of singles, and up to four on one moor in the Dales.

V.C. 65: Fifteen sightings of *ringtails* during the year and a male in one area on 12th June.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

One male at Bowthorpe on 4th May (FWO), and single males flew south at Spurn on 14th May and 15th June. A female at Flamborough on 25th and 26th May (PAL, *et al*). A very pale male on Ilton Moor on 25th May (RE, PTT). A near adult male at Blacktoft Sands from 28th May to 16th June (AG). Yet another male at Gouthwaite Res. on 19th July (JEA).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

V.C. 61: Singles at Middleton-on-the-Wold on 15th January and at Flamborough Head on 13th April were the only early records. Autumn and winter records were all of singles being at Dunnington Common on 22nd August; Wheldrake on 30th August and 14th September; Whitton Sands on 29th September; Bubwith on 30th October; Flamborough on 4th, 7th, 8th and 23rd November and Arglam on 26th December.

V.C. 63: Two at Hatfield Moor on 13th October and one at Ardsley Res. on 26th. Present in the V.C. during the breeding season.

V.C. 64: Singles at Knotford Nook on 25th April; at Fairburn Ings on 18th and 19th August and from 16th to 21st September, and near Duck Street on 4th October. Present in at least one locality in the breeding season.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Indications of successful breeding of an increased number of pairs from practically all parts of the county. 23 breeding pairs reported, but from the records of sightings received many more probably were present. Some evidence of coastal movement from Scarborough, Filey, Flamborough and Spurn in the autumn and winter months with usually only one or two birds in a day.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

V.C. 61: Singles at Flamborough on 30th March, 12th and 16th October, and 1st and 4th November, at Spurn on 30th March, 15th April and 21st September; at Hornsea Mere on 17th, 21st and 24th November; at Aughton on 14th September; over Selby on 21st September, and over Atwick on 19th November.

V.C. 62: One at Clay Bank Foot on 1st April and one near Rievaulx Moor on 4th November.

V.C. 63: Singles north over Nostell on 17th February and 27th July; over Broomhead Moor on 1st March and at Bingley on 3rd March and one south over Melton Wood on 12th May. On 17th September singles at Plaice Hills and Southfield Res. Two near Bretton Park on 9th November one of which remained to 30th. One one Hatfield Moor on 13th December.

V.C. 64: Eighteen sightings in the early months and fifteen in the autumn and winter mostly on the higher ground to the west and north-west. The Gouthwaite Res. area had five and six of these respectively. One at Angram on 22nd June.

V.C. 65: Still breeding in the Sedbergh area. Singles at Grimesgill on 15th February and 20th December and near Muker on 30th October.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

V.C. 61: One at Stillingfleet on 4th January (DW) and 18th (EBB). One south over Atwick on 1st October (WFC).

V.C. 62: One near Rievaulx Moor on 4th November (DP).

V.C. 63: One at Hatfield Moor on 13th and 14th December (MC, AM, DM).

V.C. 64: Two at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th January with singles there on 17th February and 23rd November (JEA, PJC, KM, CS). One on Timble Moor on 12th, 13th and 19th April (GM, KM, DMP). One near Middlesmoor on 2nd October (Dr & Mrs GR).

Addition to 1979 Report: One at Spurn on 4th March.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

A juvenile in Arkengarthdale on 3rd September (KMG) and an immature in the Gouthwaite area on many dates between 18th November and the year end (JEA, PCD, AFGW).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

V.C. 61: One came down onto Whitton Sands before flying south along the R. Trent on 2nd June (TAE). One south offshore at Spurn on 9th September.

V.C. 62: One at Newburgh Priory on four dates between 3rd and 28th September. (AC, RH *et al*).

V.C. 63: Singles seen in flight north-west over Wintersett Res. on 22nd April (MT); east over Wath ings on 17th May (RJR, PMW), and at Blacktoft Sands south on 1st July, and south-west on 31st August (AG).

V.C. 64: One flew east over Fairburn Ings on 8th May (TG, RK). One on the R. Ure near Ripon on 25th August (per CS), and one at Fewston Res. on 1st November (FAW). One over Gouthwaite Res. on 8th November (WW).

V.C. 65: One near the R. Ure at Wensley on 9th May had caught a fish (RGB).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Successful breeding reported from many sites throughout the county.

Coastal passage not much in evidence with maxima of five at Spurn on 24th September, and eight at Flamborough on 4th October.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

An immature male at Spurn on 21st June.
Not accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Two small family parties in V.C. 62 in late July would indicate successful breeding. No successful breeding recorded at any site in V.C. 63 for the first time since records were collected by the Y.N.U. In contrast V.C. 64 had at least seven pairs rearing young which compares favourably with the one known pair in 1979. One pair reared four young at a site in V.C. 65, and birds were present at two other sites.

Many winter records from coastal localities both early and late in the year including Spurn where there was some southerly passage with 16 bird days in the autumn. Widespread in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 outisde the breeding season with maxima in the former vice-county in the autumn of six on Thorne Moors, and three each at Wath Ings and Hatfield Moor.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

V.C. 61: The first was at Hornsea Mere on 17th April (EWC) after which there were singles on 12 dates at six localities up to 11th September. Six sightings at Spurn between 12th May and 4th September.

V.C. 62: One at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 4th September (RHA).

V.C. 63: In lowland areas singles at 10 localities on a total of fifteen dates between 9th June and 15th September plus one at Midhope Res. on 22nd June (NWA).

V.C. 64: One at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd June (RE, PTT) then singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 12th July and 16th August (JEA, PJC) and Hopewell Farm, Knaresborough on 13th July (AT). An immature at Fairburn Ings from 16th to 19th September was joined by an adult on the last date (JM, CW, GRW). One at Thorpe in Wharfedale on 22nd September (PMW).

Peregrine *Falco pereginus*

V.C. 61: Flamborough Head had singles on 7th January, 8th February, 2nd March, 6th September, 21st and 26th October, 2nd, 6th and 23rd November and 13th December and two on 8th November (PAL, DIMW *et al*). One at Filey on 1st, and another on 19th January (NAB, TIC *et al*). One over Whitton Sands on 21st September (TAE), and one near Barmby Marsh Res. on 21st December (FO).

V.C. 63: Singles at Bingley on 13th April, at Langsett on 9th March and 23rd October, and at Crimsworth Dene on 16th November.

V.C. 64: An increased number of sightings in the Dales totalled 48, many of which were in the autumn (BSh). Singles at Briscoerigg on 29th February (PJC): at Fairburn Ings on 4th July (GRW); at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 24th August (RE, JRM), and at Swillington Ings on 6th December (JW).

V.C. 65: Singles near Dent on 19th April, Muker on 30th October and at Leighton Res. and Bolton-on-Swale on 30th December.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Maximum numbers on moorlands in the south and west were lower than in recent years. Numbers still low in the Settle area, presumably not yet showing recovery from the 1978–79 winter.

A nest on Sourmire Moor in V.C. 65 contained four Mallard and some Red Grouse eggs on 8th April, and on 18th May three Mallard and the Red Grouse had all hatched (PY). The fate of the young Mallard was not reported.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

V.C. 64: One pair bred in the Upper Ribble area (BSh). At High Greenfields in Langstrothdale eight males on 13th April and six females on 21st April. In upper Nidderdale a male and seven females in January, and four and three respectively on 26th April. One female near Greenhow on 26th December.

V.C. 65: Seven males on Mickleton Moor in March and two females at Crossthwaite Common on 14th July. One male at Stang Forest, and two females on Stake Fell on 2nd November. A few in the Colsterdale area above Masham.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Common in the eastern lowlands of V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, the largest coveys being of 27 at Givendale on 9th January, 25 at Thorpe Marsh on 26th October and 60 at Hatfield Moor on 19th October, where about 45 pairs bred. Interesting upland records of a pair at Grimesgill on 22nd April, and one on Pott Moor on 16th July.

Correction to 1979 Report: should read 'Hatfield Moor' in line one.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

The largest coveys, which were rather smaller than usual, were of 37 on Hatfield Moor on 1st January; 40 at Carlton near Barnsley on 19th January; 37 at Swillington Ings on 3rd February; 45 near Thrybergh Res. on 18th September, and 38 in Conisbrough Parks on 30th November.

Quail *Corurnix coturni*

A rather poor year. Singles calling just north of Hornsea on 12th June (WFC), and near Burton Fleming on 28th June (SML). One to two calling at Whitley near Goole on many days between 15th June and 8th September (JDWO)

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

At least 50 pairs on Hatfield Moor. A pure white male at Sledmere on 23rd March (SCM).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Fairly regular at Horsea Mere, Tophill Low Res. and Fairburn Ings, each having some summer records, though breeding was not confirmed. Two pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands; one pair with young in late July. Singles at Carlton Marsh on 7th June and Wintersett Res. on 11th July.

During the autumn and winter months ones and twos at many localities mainly in V.C. 63, an exceptional number being four at Worsbrough Res. on 9th March, and Blacktoft Sands had 30 on 7th January and during November. Singles at Austwick Moss on 24th February; at Scarborough Mere from 25th January to 17th March; at Flamborough on 6th December, and at Atwick during the late autumn and winter. Singles in the Spurn area on seven dates to 5th April, and on eight dates from 12th October.

Addition to 1979 Report: A pair bred at Potteric Carr.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One calling at Wheldrake on 17th May (TMC, MC, AP), and 6th June (TB). One at Spurn on 20th and 21st September, and one at Clayton Hall farm near Bretton on 23rd (JBB).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

No change in status reported. Exceptional numbers noted included 85 at Fairburn Ings on 12th January, and 140 at Thrybergh Res. on 10th February, 80 at Gouthwaite Res on 12th January and 26th October, and 57 at Mickletown Ings in March. One on Pott Moor on 7th June.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Hornsea Mere had larger numbers than any other water with 2,000 on 6th January, 850 on 20th February down to 550 by 23rd March but 730 present on 15th June, and 1,500 by 19th October following a successful breeding season (RGH). Other large concentrations were 577 at Swillington Ings on 1st January and 612 at Mickletown Ings on 20th (BT). The peak at Fairburn Ings occurred on 27th July with 1,051, and at least 63 pairs bred here. Tophill Low Res. had 685 on 13th October (PWI); 570 at Malham Tarn on 22nd November, and 500 on the Lower Derwent on 27th December. 1,098 at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th December were feeding on tipped grain and potatoes.

Isolated pairs continue to be found at new sites in V.C. 63.

Crane *Grus grus*

Three flew down Nidderdale over Scar House Res. on 6th April (PJC, AO'N)
Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Bred along all the main river systems in V.C. 65. Although known to be breeding by rivers in V.C. 64 no details were received. Two pairs summered at Blacktoft Sands. One pair bred by the R. Rye at Harome and have apparently done so since 1938 (HOB). Breeding suspected but not confirmed at five sites in the Lower Derwent Valley and at Cherry Cob Sands.

Inland passage observed at many sites particularly in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 mostly from March to May and July to September, and generally of less than ten birds. Larger flocks in March included 46 at Masham G.P. on 8th, 53 at Kilnsey on 22nd and 23 at Bolton-on-Swale on 23rd. Regular westerly passage along the upper Humber past Blacktoft Sands from 14th April to 2nd September with a maximum of 120 on 31st August.

Southerly passage peaked in late July and early August, with 278 at Filey on 29th July and 180 on 30th when Spurn had 130 and Scarborough had 190. Heaviest passage was on 3rd August with 309 at Filey, 734 at Flamborough and 519 at Spurn where there were 631 on 7th August.

Maxima on the R. Humber at Spurn of 4,000 on 14th February and 3,000 on 2nd November. The total Estuary count on 27th January of 5,120 and on 24th February 3,350 (DBC).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

One circled Hornsea Mere on 27th January (NAB) then flew north to be seen at Barmston (HTJ) and Flamborough (PAD, VAL). On the lagoons at Blacktoft Sands one on 6th April and two on 13th May (AG). One at Cherry Cob Sands on 15th May (HOB). Two flew from Kilnsea ponds south-east over the sea on 28th June (GG).

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

One between Welwick and Haverfield Ponds on 11th May (BS & SP).

Collared Pranticole *Glareola pratincola*

One at Hornsea Mere on 15th May (SML, JC, RGH).
Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The first were singles on 26th and 27th March at Fairburn Ings and Wath Ings, and on 2nd April at Carlton (V.C. 63).

At least four pairs bred in V.C. 61 and ten pairs in V.C. 63 including once again a pair at an upland reservoir. In V.C. 64 19 pairs bred successfully and others attempted but failed. Eight pairs bred at four sites in V.C. 65. An autumn maximum of 22 at Nosterfield G.P. on 12th July with 13 to 18 at Gouthwaite Res., Blacktoft Sands and Bleacheroft Farm in July. The last were on 27th September, one at Wath Ings and two at Thorpe Marsh.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

A considerable increase in the number of pairs breeding inland. These included a pair in a disused quarry at Preston-under-Scar; four pairs each at Nosterfield G.P. and Stocks Res.; three pairs at Gouthwaite Res.; two pairs at Tudworth, and one pair each at Tynham Hall G.P. and Welton Water. Some pairs breeding along the coast southwards from Barmston.

Inland passage of small numbers from late February to September with singles in November at Bretton Park on 19th and Pugney's G.P. on 23rd. 17 at Fairburn Ings on 21st August; 25 at Blacktoft Sands on 15th and 28th August and 70 at Whitton Sands on 25th. 100 at Spurn on 13th August and 98 on 2nd September.

Birds showing characters of the Arctic race *C. h. tundrae* during late May and early June amongs flocks at Blacktoft Sands and Spurn, which peaked at 50 on 29th and 26 on 22nd May respectively.

Addition to 1979 Report: 55 at Blacktoft Sands on 12th August.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Two males and one female at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 3rd and 4th May (RE, PTT, JRM, *et al*).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

One at Hopewell House Farm, Knaresborough on 27th April (AS, AT). At Whitley Common near Ingbirchworth a flock of seven arrived on 9th May peaked at ten on 11th, and remained until 19th when four were present (CB *et al*). One on Thorne Moor on 10th May (BCE), and two on 11th (ML, WHP). 24 at Ravenscar on 10th May (BN, MF). 18 there on 14th (RHA) and six on 15th (MF). A pair at Flamborough from 22nd to 28th May (PAL *et al*).

One flew south-west over Spurn on 25th September

Addition to 1976 Report: Three on Howl Moor nr. Whitby in late April (RH).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

V.C. 61: The Derwent Valley had the largest numbers early in the year with 2,350 between Bubwith and Wheldrake on 9th March (TED), and on the same day 1,200 were at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. Autumn numbers were greater with 4,000 in the Whitton Sands area from 25th November (AC); 3,000 near Leconfield on 24th November (BS & SP); 2,250 at Bubwith on 25th December (DIMW), and 3,500 at Atwick during mid-December (WFC).

V.C. 62: 300 at Folkton Carr on 21st February (MF).

V.C. 63: 1,000 at Southfield Res. on 2nd March (CW) and 1,400 at Laughton Common on 9th. Many flocks of 200 to 800 early and late in the year, the highest in autumn being 1,000 at Wah Ings on 22nd November.

V.C. 64: At Bishopthorpe 1,100 on 24th April and 3,000 on 23rd November, and 1,000 at Otley Chevin on 1st November.

Many of the birds in the spring in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 showed characteristics of the Northern race *P. a. altifrons*.

V.C. 65: 800 at Bolton-on-Swale on 17th February.

Bred on moorlands throughout the Pennines and on the North Yorkshire Moors.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Maximum counts were fairly small with only 53 on the Humber Estuary on 27th January and 26 on 24th February. Higher maxima at Spurn with 58 on 1st January; up to 59 in May; 101 on 18th August and 45 on 30th October. 15 at Cherry Cob as late as 7th June.

Inland singles at seven sites in V.C. 63 from May to December, and four sites in V.C. 64 in January and May to September, and one over Pott Moor on 31st July. Blacktoft Sands had sightings on 37 dates mainly May to October with maxima of 13 flying west on 21st September and 25th October.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

V.C. 61: An extremely large influx ocurred on the night of 8th/9th March to the Derwent Valley giving an estimated 17,000 present between Wheldrake and Bubwith (TED, GS, EBB).

Maxima elsewhere occurred in November with 3,500 at Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 23rd, 2,000 at Atwick on 24th and 4,000 along the Lower Derwent on 27th, and over 1,000 at four other sites.

V.C. 63: 2,500 west over Midhope on 1st January. 2,000 at Southfield Res. on 2nd March, and at Pugney's G.P. on 24th December; and 2,500 at Blacktoft Sands on 26th November. 4,000 at Thorpe Marsh on 25th September, and maxima of over 1,000 at three other sites.

V.C. 64: Flocks of over 1,000 at sixteen localities. 2,000 at Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd March; at Cawood on 28th October; and at Bishopthorpe on 29th December. 4,000 in the Ribble Valley on 16th August

V.C. 65: 2,500 near Richmond on 22nd February.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

The Humber Estuary count gave 10,600 on 27th January (all east of Stone Creek) and 6,540 on 24th February, and an incomplete count of 6,000 (all at Patrington Haven) on 28th December (DBC). Peaks at Spurn of 2,000 on 26th January, and 1,600 on 30th November. Noteworthy

southerly passage of 127 at Filey on 26th July and at Spurn 128 on 27th July, and 227 on 5th August. Up to 100 in Cornelian Bay in January and February.

Singles inland at 10 sites in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 mainly in May, July and August, and three at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 31st August. One at Bolton-on-Swale on 11th and 12th May. Blacktoft Sands had singles on eight dates, and five on 19th July, and flying west, two on 18th July and 32 on 15th August.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Up to 60 were in Jackson's Bay during the first three months (CEW), but as usual the largest numbers were between Bridlington and Barmston with 220 on 26th January and 170 on 29th November (SML). Spurn had 140 on 16th April and 75 on 17th August, and the maximum count there of 159 south offshore on 5th August.

Inland the majority of the records were during May with one at Tophill Low Res. on 12th; two at Bolton-on-Swale on 13th; and one to two at four sites in V.C. 63 plus 20 at Wath Ings on 30th; and at Fly Flats Res. three on 26th, nine on 27th and eight on 28th. 13 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd June of which nine flew west; three at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd July, and seven flying west at Swillington Ings on 29th November.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The bird that wintered at Blacktoft Sands up to 9th April was probably the one noted between Goole and Flaxfleet on 27th January and 24th February. A light spring passage with singles at Fairburn Ings, Wath Ings and Welton Water between 7th and 15th May. Blacktoft Sands however had one on 11th and 12th May; three to 15th, then one to three from 23rd May to 1st June, and another from 8th to 10th June.

Autumn records inland were more frequent with three at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 30th August and at Wath Ings on 23rd September, and singles at four other waters. Blacktoft Sands had one to six on 39 dates from 31st July to 29th September, and ten on 2nd September, and singles on 8th and 22nd October. Whitton Sands had four on 10th August and 30th Sepember, then seven on 4th and five on 5th October.

Regular along the coast between 31st July and 28th September with one to two at Filey, Flamborough, Hornsea, Easington, and Spurn, and up to five at Barmston, and four at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 12th May (RE, PTT). Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 14th May (NAB, PD), and from 10th to 16th September (BF, GED *et al*). One at Blacktoft Sands from 15th to 17th May and on 26th and 27th September (AG). Singles at Broomhill Flash on 1st June (JH, JMT, DJS) and at Wheldrake Ings on 30th August (DB, EBB *et al*).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

A light spring passage at Blacktoft Sands probably involved seven different birds with singles on nine dates between 12th May and 24th June, and three from 16th to 20th June. One at Spurn on 16th and 17th May.

One to two at five inland sites on various dates from early July to early October. One at Scalby Mills on 1st September; two at Barmston in September; and one to three at and past Spurn on 17 dates between 2nd August and 1st October. The autumn passage was most marked in the Upper Humber at Whitton Sands with two on 5th and 11 on 30th July, six on 23rd September and two on 19th October (TAE, STH, DIMW); and at Blacktoft Sands from 23rd July increasing to 15 by 27th and 34 on 31st, then 28 on 1st August down to two on 16th August. All these at Blacktoft were adults and were followed by a light passage of immatures from 25th August to 12th October peaking at seven on 10th September (AG).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

The largest numbers were at Filey Brigg with 276 on 5th January, 210 on 24th February, 320 in March, 280 on 7th April and 250 on 3rd May with six returning by 30th June, and then a slow build-up to 120 on 17th December. Maxima elsewhere were 130 at Whitby on 9th January (MC);

100 at Cornelian Bay on 12th February; 80 at Flamborough on 24th February, and 103 at Bridlington on 29th November.

Inland, one at Pugney's G.P. on 4th July, and one at Faxfleet on 10th August.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

The highest Humber Estuary counts were on 27th Jaunary with 10,300 and on 24th February with 12,200. 1,000 were at Whitton Sands as late as mid-May, and the autumn maximum at Spurn was 2,000 on 30th October. The highest counts at coastal sites were 450 in Cornelian Bay on 25th January, and 630 at Filey on 27th December.

Inland in V.C. 61 good numbers were regular in the winter in the Derwent valley with a maximum on 23rd February of 420 near Bubwith. 480 at Lambwath near Aldbrough on 28th December. Further inland, recorded in every month at gravel pits and reservoirs with 59 at Fly Flats Res. on 31st May, and on 29th November 66 flew west over Swillington Ings.

Bred in moorland localities west of Huddersfield.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Winter records of singles at Ulrome on 5th January; Bubwith on 26th January and 10th February; Blacktoft Sands on 13th February; Fairburn Ings on 9th March and Flamborough on 16th. In December two at Blacktoft on 8th and one on 10th; two at Bubwith on 25th and seven at Wheldrake on 21st and two on 28th.

A moderate spring passage both inland and on the coast from the first six at Aughton on 10th April to the last one at Wath Ings on 20th May. In contrast to other sites Blacktoft Sands had singles on five dates to 23rd June and then the first of autumn on 3rd July.

Southerly movement along the coast mainly during autumn with the highest numbers at Spurn the maximum being 38 on 9th August.

Well inland in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 passage from early July to early November appeared normal the highest count being 17 at Nosterfield G.P. on 10th September. Five were at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th September and one at Seamer G.P. on 1st.

Quite exceptional numbers appeared at Blacktoft Sands, Whitton Sands, the Derwent Valley and Tophill Low Res. Blacktoft Sands had 15 on 29th July, 25 on 14th August then after 62 on 6th September unprecedented numbers during that month with 105 on 8th, 205 on 12th and 220 on 13th decreasing to 110 by 24th, but still 120 on 9th October down to 45 by 19th, 31 on 13th November and last 30 on 19th (AG). Whitton Sands reflected these peaks with 20 on 12th August, 30 on 12th September then 110 on 14th and 123 on 16th down to 24 on 3rd October. 17 near Faxfleet on 30th November (TAE, STH). At Wheldrake 33 on 29th and 70 on 30th August then after a decrease a second build-up to 55 on 12th September, and 14 on 22nd. Tophill Low Res. had its highest numbers during September with 21 on 9th, 64 on 16th, 38 on 22nd, 10 on 29th, then 21 on 2nd October and 15 on 10th (PWI, PD, KR).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Typical records of one to three in V.C.'s 61, 63, 64, and 65 during the early months. A late individual at Blacktoft Sands on 1st May. Early autumn records in September at Fairburn Ings on 13th, Spurn on 15th, 16th and 20th and Wintersett Res. on 20th. Autumn numbers were similarly low exceptions being at Wath Ings in October with six on 5th and four on 6th and 22nd, at Hornsea Mere with six on 8th November, and four on 13th November at Humber Wildfowl Refuge. One at Sourmire on 22nd November.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

V.C. 61: 180 at Aughton on 20th January, and 190 along the Lower Derwent on 16th March. 50 at Hornsea Mere on 19th February, and 90 there on 17th November. 40 near Wheldrake on 28th August, up to 250 by 30th, down to 100 by 1st September. Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 72 on 4th January, and 80 on 3rd December. Tophill Low Res. had its maximum of 72 on 28th August.

V.C. 63: Potteric Carr had 150 on 24th February. Fewer at Wath Ings than last year with 200 on four dates from 28th September to 27th October. 50 to 80 at three other sites in November and December.

V.C. 64: 90 at Swillington Ings on 24th February and maxima of 50 to 80 at two sites in March, and one in October.

V.C. 65: 148 at Bolton-on-Swale on 10th February.

Bred throughout the county particularly in the high moorland areas.

Dowitcher sp. *Limnodromus sp.*

One at Staveley Lagoon on 10th August (DRJW).

Not yet accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

One flew south along the peninsula at Spurn on 30th July.

Not accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Moderate numbers along the coast in the early months with four at Filey on 16th and nine at Flamborough on 24th February, and up to eight round Hornsea Mere in January and February.

Roding birds recorded in all vice-counties but no known change in status.

An autumn influx with seven at Spurn on 31st October, and eight on 1st November when Flamborough had 11, and nine near Atwick on the following day. Nine near Welton Water on 16th December, and eight at Bielby on 20th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

V.C. 61: One on the R. Humber near Spurn on 24th February, two at Cherry Cob Sands on 16th March (BS & SP), three at Bubwith on 7th April and two at North Duffield on 12th. One north at Spurn and six at Barmston on 27th April (CJS). One at Tophill Low Res. on 8th May (PWI, KR) and five at Flamborough on 17th (PAL, IS). Singles at Spurn on 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th September, one at Filey on 5th September and singles at Whitton Sands on 29th September and 25th October (TAE, STH).

V.C. 63: All records at Blacktoft Sands with six east on 13th April; four present on 21st; one from 27th to 30th; two on 8th May, seven on 9th, one on 13th, 14th and 18th May; and two on 5th June. In the autumn singles on 8th August, 28th September and 25th October.

Addition to 1979 Report: two at Mexborough on 21st March, and five at Southfield Res. on 2nd May.

V.C. 64: Three at Fairburn Ings on 1st April, two at Eccup Res. on 10th August and nine at Staveley Lagoon on 18th August.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The Estuary count gave 407 on 27th January; 908 on 24th February of which 750 were at Cherry Cob Sands, and 223 in a partial count on 28th December (DBC). 300 at Cherry Cob on 16th March; 75 near Stone Creek on 2nd May, and 20 at Cherry Cob on 11th May and 22 on 7th June (BS & SP). Few records along the coast but at Filey on 22nd August about 100 came in off the sea.

Westerly movement inland at Whitton Sands and Blacktoft Sands from 29th June to 2nd November with maxima of 43 on 27th July and 27 on 15th August.

Inland only 18 other records mainly of singles from the first at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th April to the last at Nosterfield G.P. on 14th September. Higher numbers included three at Gouthwaite Res. on 24th April; four at Pugney's G.P. on 3rd May where four flew west on 17th July as did eight on 2nd September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Singles at Filey Brigg on 2nd and 6th April were the first followed by a light spring passage on the coast and inland, with five east over Ingbirchworth on 4th May the largest group.

Higher numbers along the coast during the autumn with 27 south at Filey on 31st July; 30 at Flamborough on 3rd August and 56 on 22nd; and 20 south at Scarborough on 1st September. Up to 30 on the R. Humber at Spurn on 18th July and 31 on 1st August with peaks of southerly passage on 31st July (40) and 6th August (71). One to six at many inland sites with 19 south over Nosterfield G.P. on 26th July; ten north over Eccup Res. on 10th August and nine at Wath Ings on 13th August. A pale morph at Flamborough from 11th to 16th October (DGH *et al*).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

The Estuary count of 24th February of 2,069, including 1,600 at Cherry Cob, was the years highest, and 250 were still at Cherry Cob on 11th May. The Ribble Valley peak of 450 on 10th March but only 60 there in the autumn. 273 at Bolton-on-Swale on 10th February and 72 on 30th December.

Westerly movement inland was quite marked with 116 over Blacktoft Sands on 22nd June, 109 on 2nd July, and 190 over Swillington Ings on 9th August. Spurn had 167 on 14th July but in general numbers there were lower than usual. 106 at Denton on 25th December.

Breeding at lowland sites in V.C. 61 and 63 more frequently in recent years. 300 at Malham Moor on 6th July.

A *leucistic* bird at Bishop Monkton on 16th March.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Singles at Fairburn Ings on 16th March, Bubwith on 23rd and Tophill Low Res. on 31st. A normal scattering of ones and twos, mainly inland, during April and May. In June one at Wath Ings on 13th and 15th one at Spurn, and two at Flamborough also on 15th. Autumn passage from 29th July to the last one at Spurn on 28th October. Up to three at Faxfleet from 12th August to 25th October, with eight there on 12th September; four at Pugney's G.P. on 31st August; four at Wheldrake on 1st September, and five at Nosterfield G.P. from 15th to 22nd September; and one or two at 16 other places. Three at Seamer G.P. on 23rd August.

Redshank *Tringa Totanus*

The Humber Estuary count of 27th January gave 814 and that of 24th February 1310. Numbers elsewhere along the estuary were below three figures, except at Spurn, which apart from May, June and December had maxima of over 100 each month with 400 on 11th and 15th April, 600 on 27th August and 500 on 30th September. 120 at Blacktoft Sands on 24th September. 300 at Cornelian Bay on 28th February; 195 at Filey Brigg on 29th March, where a similar number flew south on 19th July, on which date 165 passed Flamborough. Other coastal counts were quite small.

Breeding reports mainly from V.C. 61 with at least 20 pairs along the Derwent Valley (the species is well established as a wintering bird here), and pairs along Pocklington Canal; and in V.C. 63 at Blacktoft Sands, Wath Ings and in the high moorlands; and three pairs bred at Fairburn Ings.

Small numbers wintered far inland particularly in V.C. 63 and 64 with less than ten at most sites. Up to 16 in Ribble Valley in January and February; 20 at Wath Ings on 9th February and 25 at Fairburn Ings on 22nd November, and up to five wintered at Bolton-on-Swale.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A few in the early months before the main spring passage. One at Bubwith on 20th January; three at Birkin on 10th February and one at Fairburn Ings on 23rd, where there were a few in March; one at Mickletown Ings on 29th February and three at Ossett Spa S.F. on 10th March.

Widely scattered records of one to four through April and May to early June were almost entirely of inland sites.

One at Seamer G.P. on 27th June and after moderate numbers in July a heavier passage up to early October. These included eight south at Scarborough, and 12 south and nine south-east at Spurn on 30th July. Most of the autumn maxima occurred during August with 11 each at Nosterfield G.P. on 5th, Whitton Sands on 8th, and at Knostrop S.F. on 31st; 12 at Spurn on 3rd and at Wath Ings on 8th; 24 at Blacktoft Sands on 15th; 20 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th and 14 at Pugney's G.P. on 26th. In September nine at Bolton-on-Swale on 10th and 11 at Beacon Lane ponds on 17th. One at Spurn on 2nd and two at Pugney's G.P. on 4th November, and one at Potteric Carr on 22nd December.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa oehropus*

Singles wintered at five sites in V.C. 61; one in V.C. 62; 18 in V.C. 63 and several in V.C. 64. Wath Ings was an exception in having six on 24th February, five on 8th November and two on many other dates.

A light spring passage with one or two at more than 20 places Wath Ings again being the exception with up to four during April.

The autumn passage was normal with singles at many places and five to six at one site each in V.C.'s 62, 64 and 65, two sites in V.C. 61 and three in V.C. 63. A total of about 12 on Thorne Moors on 27th July; 14 at Tophill Low on 2nd August; 13 at Flamborough on 3rd; eight at Thorpe Marsh on 5th and 11 at Blacktoft Sands on 13th and 18th August. Regularly more than ten at Wath Ings with 15 on 26th August, 11 on 19th September and seven on 1st November.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

V.C. 61: Singles at Easington on 11th May; Wheldrake on 13th and 23rd; Tophill Low Res. from 14th to 17th; Hornsea Mere on 18th and two at Flamborough on 26th May.

Between 22nd July and 19th August singles on various dates at Wheldrake Ings, Flamborough, Kilnsea, Spurn, Whitton Sands, Naburn S.F. and Hornsea Mere. Three at Wheldrake on 1st August; two at Flamborough on 2nd and 3rd; two at Whitton Sands on 2nd and at Tophill Low Res. on 9th August and six at Spurn (four of which went south) on 30th July.

V.C. 62: One at Seamer G.P. on 22nd May.

V.C. 63: Singles at Mickletown Ings on 29th April; Blacktoft Sands on 12th and 29th May and 8th June; Denaby Ings on 13th May; Pugneys G.P. on 15th and Wath Ings on 21st and 31st May.

Wath Ings; one on 6th and 7th July and from 29th July to 11th August then, two on 12th and 13th and one on 21st August. Blacktoft Sands; one on 8th and 9th July, three on 29th then one on 2nd August and five days to 20th and with two on 8th. Ringstone Edge Res. Blackmoorfoot Res., Tinsley S.F., Wintersett Res. and Pugney's G.P. had singles on one or more dates from 28th July to 15th August. Two each of Blackmoorfoot Res. and Treeton on 31st July and at Elsecarr Res. on 5th August with one there on 4th September.

V.C. 64: Three spring and fourteen autumn records all of ones or two during the peiods 29th April to 14th May and 7th July to 4th October.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Individuals at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th April; Ripon Parks and Gouthwaite Res. on 12th; Hornsea Mere on 13th; Spurn on 15th and many localities up to the month end.

In V.C. 61 may have bred in the Lower Derwent and near Millington. Bred throughout the Dales and Pennine moorlands. One pair bred at Tynham Hall G.P. Maxima at Gouthwaite Res. of 29 on 29th April and 38 on 28th June; 25 at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th July and 16 at Eccup Res. on 29th; on 31st July 17 at Blackmoorfoot Res. and 20 at Pugney's G.P., and 18 at Hornsea Mere on 11th September. The unusual number of 55 that appeared at Seamer G.P. on 30th July (MF) obviously represented a migratory movement, and 16 were at Spurn on the same day. One at Mickletown Ings on 18th October and five at Bolton Abbey on 7th November (DR).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Filey Brigg had up to 70 in January; 110 on 8th March and 340 on 7th April, with 30 present again by August; 60 in November and 120 on 17th December. Present along the R. Humber at Spurn all the year, except for a few June and July days, with maxima of 80 on 24th. February; 390 on 16th April; 204 on 17th August and 245 on 2nd September. A juvenile marked early in the autumn on the Wash was at Spurn on 15th October.

Inland one to two at nine sites in the spring, and up to four at eight sites in the autumn. Seven at Whitton Sands on 24th July and 10 on 8th August. Five flew west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th August and six west over Blacktoft Sands on 31st.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

One on the scrape at Spurn on 16th September was later on the Beacon Lane ponds (RPC, GN, BRS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Commitee.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

The one at Bridlington at the end of 1979 remained to 2nd January. Singles at Whitby on 19th January (MC); Scalby Mills on 28th March (MDW) and Hornsea Mere on 19th October (RGH). One at Easington lagoons on 1st November was probably the one that flew south at Spurn on 2nd. Two flew south at Flamborough Head on 11th November (DIMW). One at Filey Brigg on 28th December, and one in Cornelian Bay from 29th to 31st December (MDW).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Singles at Flamborough on four dates in June from 1st, and one in July with two on 16th; and two dates at Spurn in July. In August singles on two dates at Filey Brigg and two on 23rd, and two dates at Spurn plus three north on 31st. More frequent at Flamborough with five on 3rd; 11 on 10th; 10 on 24th and 25 on 25th August, as maxima (PAL *et al*). Three on 1st, and one on 15th September from Marine Drive, Scarborough (RHA). Singles at Spurn on 20th, and Filey on 27th and 30th September (HJW *et al*). Occurred on 16 days at Flamborough from three on 6th September to the last one on 7th December; usually one or two, but four on 4th October. Singles at Spurn on 24th and 29th October, and 6th November.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

No sightings before April when seven flew south at Flamborough on 20th and three north at Spurn on 26th with singles at Long Nab and Filey Brigg on 28th and 29th. One to two at Spurn on a few days in May and June. From 28th June occurred regularly at Filey until late September, and at Flamborough and Spurn until the end of October. Exceptional numbers moved south on 21st, 22nd and 23rd August with counts on these days of 167, 170 and 188 at Filey Brigg; 235, 277 and 154 at Flamborough Head, and 487, 254 and 154 at Spurn. On 30th August a near gale north-westerly after midday brough a heavy southerly movement of 37 at Scarborough (one hour); 623 at Filey; 523 at Flamborough (in one and a half hours); 344 at Hornsea (two hours) and 4,709 at Spurn. Smaller numbers during September but on 13th 108 at Filey; 228 at Flamborough and 152 at Hornsea, and on 14th 190 at Spurn. A few November records including eight at Spurn on 4th, two at Filey on 9th and one at Withernsea on 18th.

One flying north-west over Ardsley Res. on 21st September was the only inland record.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

One flew south-east over Kilnsea on 10th May. Sub-adults off Flamborough on 9th and 24th August; adults on 24th August (two) and 12th and 21st September; and juveniles on 23rd, 25th, 30th and 31st (three) August (PAL, AMA, JH *et al*). Singles south at Spurn on 21st August, and north-west over the Humber on 11th October. One south at Filey Brigg on 11th October (SML *et al*) and at Flamborough on 12th (AG *et al*).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Singles in January at Flamborough on 7th, 20th and 27th and Cornelian Bay on 18th, and in March at Filey on 10th and 16th, and two south at Spurn on 20th April. Appeared at Flamborough on four days in June then regularly until mid November, and at Filey daily from early July to early September, and at Spurn from late July to early November. Highest counts at Flamborough were 50 on 21st August; 70 on 22nd; 59 on 23rd; 60 on 24th; 72 on 25th, 40 on 31st, and 31 on 13th September. Filey had 25 on 22nd August and 41 on 30th, and eight on 4th October 26 south at Spurn on 22nd August and 35 on 11th October of which 25 flew north. Four at Scarborough on 2nd July and 1st September; five at Ulrome on 11th October; two at Filey on 7th November and three at Spurn on 29th November.

One at Whitton Sands on 11th October flew east down river.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

The resident Bridlington bird was reported on many days through the year. Records from Filey Brigg that may have been of this bird were of sub-adult on 9th and 10th February, and an adult on 27th September and 11th October (HJW, TIC). Others in V.C. 61 were first-winter birds at Stamford Bridge on 9th and 10th February (DW) and Bridlington on 18th March (RHA); a second-summer at Escrick on 25th to 27th May (KP), and an adult at Kilnsea on 28th

July (SML). At Flamborough an adult on 30th March (J H *et al*), a sub-adult on 14th June and two adults on 1st November (PAL). A sub-adult at Spurn on 22nd March and adults on 20th July and 15th October.

V.C. 62: Records were mainly from Scalby Mills with second year birds on 26th March (PJD, MB) and 28th June (MDW); an adult on 5th April (RHA); first-summer on 19th April (RHA), and a sub-adult on 29th December (MDW)

An adult at Long Nab on 25th August (GC).

Inland a first-summer bird east over Fairburn Ings on 10th June (TG, CW).

Little Gull *Larus minutas*

Occurred fairly regularly at Spurn from 16th April (four) to the last on 2nd November with a maximum of 71 north on 25th October.

Inland in V.C. 61 three at Tophill Low Res. on 13th April, and one to two there, and at Wheldrake Ings and Whitton Sands on a few dates. Small numbers along the coast at Filey, Bridlington, Barmston, Withernsea and Kilnsea. Autumn maxima past Flamborough of 12 on 24th August; 15 on 21st September, and 10 on 6th November.

The first at Hornsea Mere was one on 18th May, with up to eight at the month end; then a serious build up from five on 17th July up to 14 on 29th. In mid August the numbers on the Mere were the highest ever with 170 on 22nd (EWC), and 85 on 23rd. The large numbers in the area were reflected by counts of 105 and 113 at the Hornsea sea front on 10th and 13th August. Numbers at the Mere declined in September down to 30 on 18th and the last on 25th (RGH, WFC).

In V.C. 62 the Scarborough area had singles on 12th January, and nine other dates to 16th September, plus three on 22nd March and 19th August mostly at Scalby Mills with five past Marine Drive on 16th July, 11 on 23rd August and two on 10th and 15th September.

Inland in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 recorded at 13 waters between 18th April and 21st September, usually one to three, but an exceptional 20 at Treeton for two minutes on 7th May (PW), and a late one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th October.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

Flamborough Head had most of the records with a first-winter on 19th March (DIMW) adults on 23rd May, 22nd, 25th and 31st August (PAL *et al*), immatures on 7th September and 11th October (DGH, AMA, DIMW) and adults on 3rd (PAL, SR), 6th and 10th November (DIMW).

Adults at Whitton Sands on 9th August (TAE), Spurn on 22nd and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 29th August (PDB).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Vast numbers in the Derwent Valley in the early months with estimates at Wheldrake Ings of 50,000 on 17th February; 40,000 on 1st March down to 12,000 on 9th March, and in the autumn 15,000 on 22nd November. Humber Estuary counts of 9,540 on 27th January (8,000 along Hull docks), and 5,210 on 24th February whilst later in the year very large numbers roosted at Whitton Sands with an estimated 50,000 on 16th September. Three winter roosts in V.C. 63 held 5,000–8,000 but great numbers were at V.C. 64 roosts with 10,000 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 21st October, and 13,000 at Eccup Res. on 13th January and 12,000 on 26th December.

Bred at Skipwith (500 pairs), North Duffield (50 pairs), Thorne Moors (200 pairs), Black Moss (120 pairs), Knostrop S.F. (100 pairs), Fairburn Ings (83 pairs), Masham G.P. (200 pairs), West Tanfield (20 pairs), Arnagill Moor (500 pairs) and Stocks Res. (600 pairs).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

The Humber Estuary count of 27th January gave 55,857. 2,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 16th February. No winter roost in V.C. 63 held more than 1,000, but in V.C.64 Eccup Res. had 8,500 on 1st January; 6,000 on 23rd October and 6,500 on 7th December, 1,800 at Hutton Magna in V.C. 65 on 14th April.

One pair bred at Stainmore (BB, KB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

The largest roosts were in V.C. 64 particularly Eccup Res. with 550 on 1st January; 750 on 26th September and 650 on 26th October; Nosterfield G.P. 973 on 20th August, and at Masham G.P.'s 750 on 9th November.

Spring passage to the north-west was still going strong on 27th June when 202 flew over Hawksworth Moor. 308 at Bolton-on-Swale on 22nd June.

20 at the Stainmore breeding site on 6th July.

Dark backed birds probably belonging to the races *L.f.fuscus* and *L.f.intermedius* were at Greasbrough tip February to April and October (maximum five); at Spurn on 50 days April to May, July to October and December; also at Hornsea Mere, Withernsea, Pugney's G.P., Eccup Res. and Swinsty Res. (10 on 20th March).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Up to 1,400 roosted at Langsett Res. on 23rd January, and 1,600 at Broomhead Res. on 15th December, and at Eccup Res. 900 on 1st January and 700 on 26th December. The highest Humber Estuary count was 2,042 on 27th January. 800 at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd February.

234 pairs bred between North and South Landings at Flamborough Head.

Birds believed to belong to the race *L.a.omissus* passed Flamborough on 19th January (19), and on 2nd and 15th November (12). Others showing characteristics of this race were at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 13th March and Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd and 30th July, and 16th and 22nd September. One probably of the race *L.a.michahellis* at Seamer G.P. on 19th May (RHA).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

An immature at Filey Brigg on 5th January (PJD, TH), and at Flamborough a 1st winter on 6th January (PAL, IS) and an adult on 9th (DIMW). At Bridlington second-winter birds on 10th January and 27th February (RHA, CJS). One at Hornsea Mere on 12th January (RGH). A second-winter at Jackson's Bay on 20th February. At Flamborough a first-winter on 24th February and second-winter on 1st March (PAL, IS). One adult on Butlin's Lake, Filey on 14th November (RHA). A second-winter at Bridlington from 26th to 31st December (JRM, MFB).

Inland a first-winter at Swinsty Res. on 21st January (GF) and second-winter birds at Eccup Res. on 15th January (TD, CSVY) and 26th December (SPS, RH, DO).

Glaucous Gill *Larus hyperboreus*

An exceptional year both on the coast and inland particularly in the early months.

V.C. 61: Birds at Hornsea, Bridlington and Filey during the first 10 days with three at Flamborough on 6th and 9th January. An influx on 12th January with five at Filey, one at Sowerby and nine at Flamborough and then at least 12 there on 13th and one at Hornsea Mere. One to two at Filey and Flamborough for the rest of the month, and six at the latter headland on 27th January. Filey had one to three on many days in February but few were seen at Flamborough where the last was a single on 13th April. An adult at Filey was last seen on 9th March whilst a first-winter bird was in the area until 13th April (PAL, IS, DIMW, DGH, PJD, HJW, AB *et al*).

Spurn had an immature on 6th January then first-winter birds on 19th and 26th January, 21st, 22nd and 24th February. A second-winter from 1st to 9th March and 1st to 21st April with another on 8th April. Adults on 30th August and 29th November when there was also a first-winter bird. One to two regularly at Flamborough and Filey during November and December with five first-winter at Filey on 29th November (HJW, JL, TIC), and singles at Tunstall, Bridlington, Barmston and Hornsea.

Away from the coast singles at Welton Water on 17th February (PH); at Wheldrake on 9th March in addition to the 'limping' bird from 1979 and a second-winter on 23rd March (TAE, STH). The 1979 bird returned again on 8th November and remained along the Lower Derwent, and an adult was at Wheldrake Ings on 7th December (A & JD). Presumed Glaucous/Herring Gull hybrids at Flamborough on 28th. September and 8th November (PAL); at Filey on 24th December (PJD) and at Atwick on 17th December (WFC).

V.C. 62: First-winter birds in the Scarborough area; at Jackson's Bay one on 10th January and two on 2nd February; at Scalby Mills two on 12th and 19th Januaary and one one 29th March and 3rd May; in the Harbour on 26th February, and in Cornelian Bay on 2nd March. A sub-adult at Scalby Mills on 12th January; and adults in the harbour on 12th January and 26th February,and at Scalby Mills on 19th January and Cornelian Bay on 19th February (CEW, RHA, AB, HJW, JW, SCM). A first-winter at Whitby on 19th and 26th February (CB, RHA).

At Scalby Mills an adult on 5th October (RNH), a first-winter on 19th December (MDW) and another at Whitby on 31st December (GWF).

V.C. 63: More records than ever before during the first three months Greasbrough Tip had seven individuals (five first-winter, and two immatures) totalling 30 bird days between 20th January and 3rd April (NWA *et al*). Six individuals at Pugney's G.P. from 19th January to 30th April were all first-winter except for an adult on 6th and 7th March, one remained throughout the period but most were only present on one date (PS, PH, PLM, DP). Wintersett Res. had first-winter birds on 19th January and 20th March (PS, GJS). A first-winter at Langsett Res. on 23rd and 30th January and 10th February (NWA). An adult at Blackmoorfoot Res. on first and second-water on 8th February (PDB). Blacktoft Sands had a first-winter on 2nd February; an immature on 23rd March and an adult on 30th (AG). A second-winter at Worsbrough Dale on 7th and 10th February (GJS, JMT). At Beighton Tip a first-winter on 17th February and an immature on 17th and 19th February (PL). An immature at Manvers Pond (PWA) and an adult at Ardsley Res. on 23rd March (JM) and an adult at Dunscroft Tip on 28th March (AM).

An adult at Greasbrough Tip on 26th and 27th November (NWA).

V.C. 64: Fairburn Ings had first-winter birds on 18 dates with two on three dates all between 9th January and 28th April. In addition an immature on 5th and 6th February and adult on 9th and 23rd March (CW, GRW *et al*). A first-winter at Knotford Nook on 13th January (DMP) and an adult at Swinsty Res. on 17th January (GF). At Killinghall Tip a first-winter from late February to 2nd March (PJC, KM *et al*). An immature overhead at Bishop Monkton on 24th March (DJB) and a sub-adult at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 5th April (RE, PTT).

An adult at Eccup Res. on 20th December (TK, SPS *et al*).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

1,834 from the Humber Estuary count on 27th January mainly between Hessle and Hull. The maximum at Spurn on the Humber of 320 on 20th September and peak of southerly passage 466 on 8th October. 450 at Hornsea Mere on 13th January and 950 at Flamborough on 1st November. 430 in fields near Mickleby (nr. Whitby) on 31st December.

Numbers at inland roosts were lower than in recent years, the highest being 400 at Wintersett Res. on 19th, and 450 at Langsett Res. on 23rd January; 600 at Fairburn Ings on 2nd February, and 500 at Farnham G.P. on 27th December.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

An adult at Filey Brigg in the afternoon on 7th December where it remained until midday on 8th (HJW, AW *et al*). Fifth County record.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

13,748 breeding pairs between North and South Landings at Flamborough Head giving a total of 80,000 pairs on the cliffs of V.C. 61 south of Filey. 1,660 pairs on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 28th June, and up to 800 pairs on the cliffs north of Filey Brigg.

Inland records for every month except January and November, mainly in V.C.'s 63 and 64 plus a few in V.C. 61, were of one to three birds apart from westerly movement over Whitton Sands, with 25 on 4th June, and Blacktoft Sand with 30 on 12th June, as maxima. Seven at Fly Flats Res. on 31st December.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

An early one at Filey on 3rd March, then two on 28th and one on 29th. Almost daily at Spurn from 13th April (two) to 13th October (four) with maxima of 750 on 31st July; 950 on 1st August; 1,100 on 5th September and 1,500 on 6th when the southward passage peaked at 1,450.

609 at Filey on 26th July, and 843 north on 24th August. Highest count at Flamborough of 475 on 4th September.

Many inland records. Fairburn Ings had three on 12th and two on 24th April; singles on 9th and 11th May, and 19th August and two on 20th September. One at Bolton-on-Swale on 13th April (GDM). Singles at Wintersett Res. on 27th May; Catcliffe Flash on 30th July, and Eccup Res. on 10th August. One at Swillington Ings on 10th May and 6th September and six west on 21st September. At Blacktoft Sands two each on 18th May, 12th June and 28th July and one on 2nd August, and Whitton Sands singles on 22nd July, 9th, 13th and 23rd August. One at Giggleswick on 10th August and two on 17th September, and two at Pugney's G.P. on 2nd September.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Singles at Flamborough on 4th May, 13th July and 9th, 24th, and 31st August (JH, PAL, IS, DIMW). Two near Easington on 5th July (AB, PH). One at Spurn on 14th July, two on 22nd August and five on 23rd August were all flying north offshore.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Spring passage off the coast was light the highest count being 79 *commics* at Spurn on 26th April and 70 on 12th May.

Inland passage from 13th April with six at Langsett Res., then 17 *commics* at Pugney's G.P. on 26th. More frequent at many places in May and June with 10 at Staveley on 5th May; 15 at Treeton and 11 *commics* at Knotford Nook on 6th; 10 at Chelker Res. on 7th; and on 12th May 11 at Southfield Res., eight at Mickletown Ings and seven at Bolton-on-Swale. In June 14 over Owston Wood on 1st, ad 14 at Wintersett Res. on 12th.

Heavier passage in the autumn with *commics* at Spurn numbering 700 on 29th August, 1,300 on 5th and 1,800 on 12th September. An autumn peak at Flamborough of 729 on 12th September. Inland maxima of 11 *commics* at Wath Ings on 7th August; 12 at Wintersett Res. on 9th; 42 moving inland over Whitton Sands on 25th August and 10 *commics* at Swillington Ings on 1st September otherwise less than 10 at many places.

Two at Wintersett Res. on 10th October and one at Spurn on 14th and one *commic* at Wath Ings on 18th.

Two pairs reared a total of five young at Bolton-on-Swale.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

The first were singles at Filey and Ingbirchworth Res. on 13th April then six at Spurn on 15th April. The highest counts for the inland passage were 22 north-east of Potterie Carr on 29th April; 46 north-east at Wintersett Res. on 5th May and 40 at Fairburn Ings on 7th.

Light passage at Flamborough in June included 91 on 1st.. and the return passage south peaked at 105 on 3rd August.

Singles at Treeton on 3rd and Withernsea on 8th October, and two at Pugney's G.P. on 10th October.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

No reports of proven breeding were received though there is a possibility that it took place at Easington.

One over the Humber at Spurn on 15th April; one north there on 26th; two more over the Humber on 27th, when there were seven at Easington, were the earliest records. 16 at Easington on 9th May, 29 on 10th, falling to 14 on 28th May which remained until at least 14th June (SML) and 37 there on 5th July (CV). Regularly at Spurn to 28th July with 20 on 29th May, 13 on 25th July, and one to two south with the last on 17th August.

Further north along the coast one at Barmston on 30th May; singles at Flamborough on three dates; 6 at Bridlington on 13th July, and in Filey Bay one or two on six dates from 18th June to 25th August, and three on 19th July.

Inland singles at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd May; Swillington Ings on 10th; Fairburn Ings on 11th; Staveley lagoons on 14th; Wath Ings on 17th May and Treeton Dyke on 12th June. Two flew inland past Whitton Sands on 2nd June, and at Blacktoft Sands one on 4th and two on 8th June. Four at Pugney's G.P. on 6th and one on 17th July.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Inland passage from 8th May to 27th May and 26th July to 28th September, also two June records. Earlier records on 12th April of one at Wintersett Res; two at Hay-a-Park G.P; and three at Wheldrake Ings, then two at Tophill Low Res. on the following day.

The peak of spring passage occurred from 11th to 13th May with birds at 18 localities, several having five to 11, with 12 at Fairburn Ings on 11th and 19 on 12th; and 13 at Hornsea Mere on 12th May. Other spring records and also autumn records, at a total of 34 waters with autumn maxima of nine at Hornsea Mere on 14th September; eight at Elsecarr Res. on 17th and at Pugney's G.P. on 19th when Fairburn Ings had 11. Nine flew inland at Whitton Sands on 21st September.

A few coastal records, Filey having first on 13th April and last on 29th September. Passage at Spurn reflected the inland movements with eight on 12th May and 12 on 13th, then regular from 25 July with the peak of 32 south and one over the Humber on 17th August.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

One in full summer plumage from 29th to 31st May at Tophill Low Res. (TMC, MC, BF, AG, KR).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Breeding reports received of 1,967 pairs on Flamborough Head and 30 pairs north of Filey Brigg, but no figures received for the main colonies on Bempton Cliffs (PAL, TH).

10,300 passed north off Flamborough on 7th January; 6,000 on 1st March and 8,000 on 7th November (PAL, IS).

One on a sandbank in the R. Humber at Welton on 5th February, and one east along the R. Ouse at Blacktoft Sands on 25th December.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

No information on the principal breeding colonies but 316 pairs bred between North and South Landings at Flamborough.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Singles at Filey Brigg on 2nd and 3rd April (WAC, TH), 13th October (RL) and 24th October (PJD), and at Flamborough on 8th and 29th November (DIMW, PAL).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

One to two on several days in January and February at Flamborough and Filey with birds found on the beach at Bridlington and Withernsea (long dead) on 27th January. 12 north at Flamborough on 12th March and two on 29th March and 12th April. Singles at Filey on 30th April and 11th June (HJW).

One on the Humber at Spurn on 25th October, and one in off the Sea on 26th October. Six at Flamborough on 5th November (DIMW) and three on 7th and 29th November (PAL, IS). One on the sea off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 30th December and the day after, one in the harbour being eaten by Great Black-backed Gulls (MDW). One found in a garden at Darfield on 20th March died later (PBW).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

210 pairs bred between North and South Landings at Flamborough, and four pairs bred just north of Filey Brigg, but no report from the main breeding cliffs.

The largest numbers off Flamborough were 2,300 north on 12th April, 1,530 in 35 minutes on 16th April, and 1,200 on 12th July.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Birds resembling pure stock reported along the cliffs from Flamborough to Filey. On 21st November about 4,500 were along the whole stretch of Flamborough and Bempton Cliffs.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

V.C. 63 had the largest flocks with 100 at Wath Ings on 4th January and 202 on 6th December; 350 at Potterie Carr on 9th February; 100 at Cadeby on 14th July, and 310 at Scabba Wood on 2nd November and over 50 at Ingbirchworth, Midhope and Wentworth late in the year. The largest numbers elsewhere were 90 roosting at Hornsea Mere on 23rd January and 68 near Newton Kyme in December.

Bred at Filey Brigg for the first time on record.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

The largest early flock was 2,500 on Hatfield Moor on 26th January, and 1,500 roosted at Hornsea Mere on 7th February.

A number of large flocks from late November onwards, those of over 1,000 being 1,350 feeding at Hollym Carrs on 23rd November; 2,000 around Bubwith and up to 3,000 near Atwick during December; 5,000 at Allerton Park and 2,000 at Wentworth Park on 7th December; and 3,500 at Elsecarr in late December. 3,600 flew south-west over Swillington Ings on 28th December, 3,000 roosted at Hornsea Mere on 22nd November. 320 flew south at Spurn on 23rd November.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

At least 200 at Sprotborough in January and February, and 120 at Selby on 31st October, and flocks of 50 to 80 at five other sites in V.C.'s 63 and 64, and 76 between Aughton and Ellerton on 9th December.

Recorded at Swinton, Masham and Leighton Res. in V.C. 65 and at Kirkdale in V.C. 62 all localities where the species has been scarce.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

One at Elsecarr on 5th April was very early, and the next was at Bretton Park on 15th then one at West Tanfield on 20th after which five records by the month end with the main arrival from 4th to 20th May.

Numbers on passage were lower than in 1979. Peaks of southerly movement at Spurn of 38 on 4th and 43 on 15th June, and at Blacktoft Sands 30 on 13th August. 37 at Swinefleet Common on 12th June, and 50 on Thorne Moors on 4th August. 30 pairs bred on Hatfield Moor. Singles at Wheldrake Ings and Kilnsea Church on 12th October and at Thorpe Marsh on 18th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

One at Hampsthwaite on 14th April then at Mytholmroyd and Wheldrake on 18th, and three places in V.C. 63 by the 23rd with the general arrival from 26th April to 1st May. Appears to be more common in V.C. 64 than for some years, and V.C. 61 the few reports indicated a good breeding season. More passed Spurn than in 1979 including nine on 12th August. One at Bishopside on 20th September and the last at Flamborough on 21st September.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

V.C. 61: Well distributed over most of Holderness and to the west of the R. Hull.

V.C. 62: One at Seamer G.P. on 26th March.

V.C. 63: Proof of breeding for three pairs only, but one or two noted on various dates at a further 22 sites mainly in lowland areas around Doncaster, Barnsley and Wakefield.

V.C. 64: Noted at 16 localities but no proof of breeding.

V.C. 65: A pair near Askrigg during the year, and one near Jervaulx Abbey on 19th December.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

V.C. 61: Well distributed west of the Derwent Valley breeding at numerous localities. Fewer in Holderness where a pair bred at Benningholme.

V.C. 62: Only one breeding pair reported.

V.C. 63: 22 breeding pairs reported, but there could be many more as pairs and singles were at a further 26 sites in the Huddersfield, Halifax and Bradford areas.

V.C. 64: Numbers have recovered to some extent on the high ground in the north-west. Elsewhere status unchanged with good numbers breeding.

V.C. 65: Common around Hutton Magna.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Little indication received of status from most parts of the county except the statements of 'common' and 'no apparent change'. A total of 20 breeding pairs located in the Doncaster, Barnsley, Wakefield, Huddersfield and Bradford areas, but it is still probably very under-recorded even in these localities.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

V.C. 61: Bred near Skipwith, where there were probably two pairs, and near Fangfoss. Singles at six other sites, with those at Spurn and Flamborough indicating spring and autumn movement with three at Spurn on 8th November and at Flamborough on 13th.

V.C. 63: The roost at Owston Wood held up to six in January, and that at Haw Park 10 in January and 11in December. One pair bred west of Halifax, and up to five pairs bred among the south-western moorland conifers of the Huddersfield and Sheffield areas. At least three pairs had territories on Hatfield Moor, and one pair bred at Thorpe Marsh.

V.C. 64: Singles at Bishop Monkton on 21st March and 26th September, at Fairburn Ings on 20th April and 5th May, and at High Batts near Ripon on 13th September.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

A quiet year for the species with fewer than usual recorded along the coast and the Humber. Higher numbers were up to four at Patrington Haven on 28th August; four at Welton Water on 3rd November and six at Cowden on 21st December. Two in off the sea at Burniston on 12th October. Although widely reported in V.C. 64 early in the year there were fewer at the year end, three at Staveley on 13th December being the most together. V.C. 63 had fewer than usual wintering with no more than two anywhere, except Blacktoft Sands which had three quite regularly. One pair each bred near Langsett and at Blacktoft Sands; at least five pairs in V.C. 64, and two in V.C. 65 with a third pair present.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

V.C. 61: First heard on Skipworth Common on 13th May where three pairs bred.

V.C. 62: Two at Ingleby Greenhow on 10th June and one singing on 21st. 35 pairs located in the forests of the North Yorkshire Moors (R. Leslie)

V.C. 63: First on Hatfield Moor on 12th May with the main arrival on 20th, 41 singing males plotted here. Two on Thorne Moor on 14th May the maximum count later being of at least 10. One singing at Deffer Wood on two days only. Last one a male on Hatfield Moor on 22nd August.

V.C. 64: One singing near Brimham Rocks on 4th June.

Addition to 1979 Report: One found dead on the road near Winksley in August.

Swift *Apus apus*

First ones on 28th April at Sheffield, Wath, Spofforth and Knotford Nook, and at Mickletown, Naburn and Hornsea Mere on the next day.

A general arrival from 3rd May (with 40 at Treeton Dyke) to the 12th May with 60 at Mickletown Ings, and 1,000 at Fairburn Ings on 11th May. Highest numbers were 3,500 over Hornsea Mere at end of May; 1,500 at Fairburn Ings on 13th June, and 1,000 west over Swillington Ings on 20th July.

Large movements at Spurn with 8,000 south on 17th July as the maximum, on which day 2,100 flew south at Withernsea in one and a quarter hours. A further peak of movement at Spurn in August with 4,800 on 4th, and 5,900 on 5th, and 820 on 17th.

At Lundwood S.F., where 1,500 were overhead on 8th July, a bird ringed at Worsbrough in 1964 was retrapped on 10th July.

Two at Oughtibridge on 6th October, but an incredibly late record of one over West Bradford Golf Course on 28th November.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One over Hornsea Mere on 2nd September (RGH) and one at North Bay Scarborough on 6th September (JW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Kingfisher Alcedo atthis

Reports from 11 localities in V.C. 61 indicates some recovery of status, and included regular sightings at Hornsea Mere and breeding at Naburn.

Noted in at least 30 localities in V.C. 63, mainly in the eastern lowlands, but also in the river valleys of the Pennines. At least three pairs bred.

Bred in at least four places in V.C. 64, and was present at three others in the breeding season, and has made a good recovery since the 1978/79 winter.

Sightings reported along the R. Swale and bred along the R. Tees in V.C. 65.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

One flew south to Chalk Bank at Spurn on 25th June where it fed for a while before continuing south (RPC, BRS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

One over the Warren at Spurn heard on 20th July.

Not accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One on Hatfield Moor on 10th May and one at Thorpe Marsh on 13th and 14th May. One on Haworth Moor on 12th September and one at Bretton Park on 23rd. An immature in the Bridlington area from 28th September to mid-October was presumably the one that took up residence in Bessingby village later, and remained to the year end.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

A moderate spring passage during May with one at Flamborough on 4th and 5th, and singles at Spurn from 4th to 8th; 8th to 11th, and 10th to 12th respectively.

The first of autumn was also at Spurn from 27th to 29th August, and another from 30th August to 4th Sptember, and then three on 31st August which was a day of obvious influx along the coast, with one at Cornelian Bay, two at Filey Brigg and eight at Flamborough as well as one at Kilnsea. After this date one was on Castle Hiil, Scarborough on 1st September and one at Scalby Mills to 4th September. At Filey Brigg two up to 2nd and one to 4th September. The numbers at Flamborough soon dropped to three on 1st, four on 2nd, then singles on 4th, 11th and 14th. Spurn had other singles on 3rd, 4th and 11th September.

Inland on 31st August one at Hull Northern Cemetery and one on Fountains Earth Moor, and one near Hawes on the following day (DFW).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

V.C. 61: Bred at Skipwith Common and Grimston Wood, and possibly at Burnby. Rare in the east but singles at Filey twice in February and in April.

V.C. 62: Few records received but up to three pairs near Rievaulx, and singles at two other likely breeding areas.

V.C. 63: Not very well reported, but proof of seven pairs breeding or attempting to do so, and sightings in parts of the Doncaster area where the species has not been seen for many years.

V.C. 64: No change in status.

V.C. 65: Recorded at Whitcliffe Wood, and also from Hutton Magna where not previously noted.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*

Common and widespread as a breeder throughout the county. An unusual record of seven flying north over Knaresbrough Ringing Station on 11th October. Possible migrants at Flamborough in October and November with birds considered to be of the northern race *D.m.major* on 11th November and 20th December (DIMW).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus minor*

Rare in the east of the county. One in Dalby Forest on 24th February, one at Stilling fleet on 25th January and males at Wheldrake on 27th July and Dunnington Common on 23rd November.

Much more frequent west of R. Ouse with sightings at 18 localities in V.C. 63 and 25 in V.C. 64, but breeding only proved at one site in each V.C., with probably a total of four more pairs attempting to breed.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Singles at Kilnsea on 1st and 8th November and north over Chalk Bank, Spurn on 10th November.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

The largest numbers were mainly noted during the first three months during hard weather conditions. 200 at Knaresbrough Ringing Station on 1st January; 350 at Ellerton on Swale on 20th January; 400 at Filey Brigg and 300 at Kilnsea on 2nd February, and 400 at Barmston on 3rd and 220 at Flamborough on 9th. Westerly movement inland during this period peaked at 750 over Blacktoft Sands on 2nd February and 556 over Fairburn on the same day and 143 over

Swillington on 10th February. Flocks of up to 150 at five other places during February. 450 in the Ribble Valley on 20th March.

Autumn flocks and movements were less marked apart from 400 at Wintersett on 29th November, and a typical passage south at Spurn with 802 on 10th and 891 on 20th October.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Two at Easington on 1st January and one on 19th, and one at Spurn on 4th and 5th, apart from Barmston which had a flock up to 9th March, the highest counts being 13 on 1st January, and nine on 3rd February.

The majority of the autumn birds were at or passing over Spurn with some 40 bird days from 22nd October to 7th December (six) mainly singles, but two to six from 8th to 11th November. Others were one at Holmpton on 23rd November, and at Barmston one on 16th and two on 29th November.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The first at Fulford on 23rd March and one at Wath Ings next day, then one to two at three other places in March with the main influx after mid-April.

Roosts of about 2,000 at Swillington Ings from late July to 1st September; at Fairburn Ings on 22nd August, Faxfleet Ponds in late August, Mickletown Ings on 26th August, and at Blacktoft Sands 3,000 on 5th September. Steady southerly movement at Spurn had a maximum of 719 on 17th September. October records at nine inland sites up to 12th., the last being at Spurn on 29th October.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The only March record was one at Blacktoft Sands on 26th followed by one at Bretton Park on 1st April, with a scattering of arrivals from 3rd to 7th and significant numbers from 11th April.

Several roosts in V.C. 63 and some in V.C. 64 had 3,000 to 10,000 in August and September the only higher numbers were 75,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 9th September, and 15,000 at Broomhill Flash on 1st September. On 16th September an exceptional number of 200,000 came into Fairburn Ings probably brought dow by a very heavy thunderstorm. 51,164 passed south at Spurn between early August and early October with maxima of 6,860 on 18th August, and 6,000 on 24th September.

There were a few solitary birds left in November at Bishop Wilton on 13th, Flamborough on 16th, and at Tinsley S.F. and Rotherham on 25th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Two on Rombalds Moor on 4th April, one at Pannal on 5th, Kirkburton on 8th and at six places by 13th with a major influx from 19th April. Gatherings of this species are usually in the region of 200 to 300, but 500 at Worsbrough Dale S.F.on 22nd May was exceptional. Spurn had southerly passage of over 1,000 on four days in September and over 500 were recorded several times in August and September at Flamborough, usually associated with westerlies or north-westerlies. Many October records including 14 at Cowcliffe, Huddersfield on 18th and 12 at Hipswell (V.C. 65) on 22nd, then singles at four sites up to 16th November with the last ones at Hornsea Mere on 20th, Parlington Park on 23rd, and Spurn on 22nd.

A juvenile Swallow/House Martin hybrid was caught at Wintersett on 25th September resembling a juvenile Swallow but with a buffish throat and a white rump. Tail more forked than a House Martin but lacking white mirrors. Legs pinkish with traces of white feathers. (PS *et al*).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

One between Easington and Kilnsea on 15th October (PP).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Comittee.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One at Fulford Ings on 30th March is only the sixth record for the county in that month. Two at Cawthorne on the 8th April were also early, then one to two at six sites by 13th April and a

general arrival from 19th. A light autumn passage along the coast noted at Flamborough and Spurn in September with 10 at Flamborough on 28th the highest count. Two on 1st and one on 10th at Spurn were the only October records.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Pre- and post-breeding season roosts of up to 200 at many places in the county. Evidence of northerly movement inland in the early months with 200 over Wildshare (V.C. 64) on 30th March. 310 at Gouthwaite Res. on 19th April.

45,373 moved south at Spurn in September and October the highest for one day being 9,467 on 18th September.

291 south-west over Swillington Ings on two days in mid-September, but more remarkable were 2,650 south-east over Langsett in four hours on 24th September, and nearly 800 in four hours on 29th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Quite well distributed along the coast during the winter months. 14 along the Humber shore between Easington and Skeffling on 22nd March. Light southerly passage at Spurn with maxima of 22 on 20th September and 31 on 13th October.

In the early months singles at five sites in V.C. 63 and one in V.C. 64, with two at Blacktoft Sands in January and two later from 21st November, and one at Broomhill Flash on 13th July. Autumn records inland totalled 13 in October and six later, all singles, plus two at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 3rd October.

Individuals thought to be of the Scandinavian race *As.littoralis* were at Hornsea Mere (up to 10 mid-March); Filey Brigg one, and Spurn two on 23rd March; singles at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 15th April; Flamborough on 30th April and 16th November, and two at Whitton Sands on 5th October.

One at Ilkley S.F. on 31st March showed characteristics of the nominate race *A.s.spinoletta*, as did one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 20th and 21st December.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The first were four at Bolton-on-Sale and one at Fairburn Ings on 4th April then there at Knaresborough Ringing Station the following day, and singles at Wheldrake on 6th and Brotton Park and Spurn on 7th. Good numbers before the month end particularly in V.C. 61 with 40 at Naburn S.F. on 23rd and 48 at Tophill Low on 24th April. The highest spring concentrations were 84 at Bolton-on-Swale on 5th May, 70 at Pugney's G.P. on 8th and 60 at Spofforth S.F. in the second week of May. Autumn flocks and roosts at a few localities with 100 each at Potterie Carr on 20th August, and Wath Ings on 11th September, and 94 at Swillington Ings on 19th September.

Birds showing characters of the Blue-headed race *M.f.flava* bred again at Spurn. They were seen regularly at Spurn after the first on 15th April and up to eight were present on 30th and 31st May. 18th August was the day of heaviest passage here with 54 *flava* wagtails moving south. Blue-headed birds were also at Harrogate S.F. and Karesborough Ringing Station on 12th April; Mickletown Ings on 3rd May; Blacktoft Sands, Filey Brigg and Treeton Dike on 5th; Doncaster Carr on 8th and 12th, and Hay-a-Park G.P. from 8th to 12th May, and at Flamborough on 18th, 22nd and 24th May. All these were singles but Naburn S.F. had one to three from 10th to 17th May. There were fewer in the autumn; three at Flamborough on 9th August and one on 16th and 19th September and one at Blacktoft Sands on 14th September were the only records away from Spurn.

One showing characteristics of Sykes's Wagtail *M.f.beema* at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 2nd and 13th May, and one apparently of the Spanish race *M.f.iberiae* at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 6th and 7th May (RE,,PTT).

The last birds were one each at Spurn and Swillington Ings on 11th October, Harthill Res. on 12th and two at Flamborough on 25th October.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

An increase in records from V.C. 61 including two of breeding, one of which was at a new site near Weedly Springs. Bred in all other vice-counties with numbers in V.C. 63 still lower than before 1978/79 winter.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Small roosts each of up to 50 noted on flat roofed buildings in the centres of Bradford, Huddersfield and Barnsley. The largest roosts reported were those at Fowlsyke Flash Sprotbrough with over 600 on 28th October; at Potteric Carr 300 on 4th November and Hay-a-Park G.P.'s 300 on 19th October. Roosts at Harrogate Hospital in February; Giggleswick Station and Hellifield in September and at Harrogate S.F. in December all held about 200.

Many localities had birds showing characters of the White Wagtail *M.a.alba*, particularly in V.C.'s 61, 63 and 64, between 30th March and 7th May, and unusual numbers of this race occurred at Spurn during the spring and records in June and July suggested summering of at least one bird.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Two at Moldgreen, Huddersfield during January. Six at Whitby on 8th February (MC). Three at Filey Brigg on 19th February (TH). 19 in off the sea at Flamborough (DIMW) and one at Swillington Ings on 1st November (JW). One flying west with a flock of Woodpigeons, near Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 25th December (DIMW).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Few significant reports received. Present at a breeding site in V.C. 61. Average numbers in the Huddersfield and Bradford areas. Status still not recovered from the 1979/79 winter in some parts of V.C. 64.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Reported as still much scarcer in V.C.'s 62, 63 and 64 than in 1978.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Some recovery in status indicated by general comments. At Knaresborough Ringing Station 75 were caught and ringed compared with 12 in 1979. An obvious passage at Filey and Flamborough from late September to mid-October with 35 the highest total for one day.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Spring passage noted at Spurn and Flamborough with 10 birds showing characters of the continental race *E.r.rubecula* on 3rd May. Heavier autumn passage with up to 40 at Spurn in mid-October and 30 on 4th November;24 at Filey Brigg on 13th October, and 50 on 3rd. and 45 on 8th November at Flamborough.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhyachos*

Three on Hatfield Moors on 1st May then nine singing males later of which six remained during the breeding season in this threatened habitat. Seven singing males were in the Yorkshire part of Thorne Moors the last being heard on 13th June. Singles at Flamborough on 4th and 5th May and 18th October, and at Spurn on 10th and 11th May. In V.C. 64, one at Bishop Wood, nr. Selby from 8th May to late June with two on 29th May and one at Almsford Bank, Harrogate, on 19th May.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

An excellent spring at Flamborough wher 14 individuals were considered to be involved commencing with a male on 21st April; another from 16th to 18th May; two males and three females on 22nd May; three males and two females on 23rd May, a male on 24th, and male and female on 25th (DGH, PAL, IS *et al*). At Spurn a male on 9th, and one on 18th May and a female on 24th May.

All males were of the red-spotted race *L.s.svecica*.

One at Scalby Mills on 20th September (RHA), and a first-year male at Spurn from 18th to 30th October.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

One at Filey on 4th January and 17th and 23rd February. Spring passage noted at Spurn, Hornsea Mere, Flamborough and Filey from 27th March to 14th May usually one or two birds, but three at Spurn on 2nd April and at Flamborough on 12th April.

Inland; singles during this period at Walshaw on 31st March, Denaby Ings on 13th April and Mickletown Ings on 12th M1

One pair reared some young at Thorpe Marsh.

Autumn passage at Spurn only with one to five daily in October from 11th to 25th plus 10 on 14th and seven on 15th then one on 30th and six on 31st October, and in November one or two on 1st to 4th and 8th to 11th. Inland singles at Old Ravenfield on 10th September, and at Horbury and Dewsbury S.F. on 8th November.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Early individuals at Malham Tarn on 4th April and Bempton on 6th. Arrival was slow with birds at only four more localities by 20th April. Bred in all V.C.'s but does not appear to be as common in V.C. 63 as it was ten years ago.

Autumn passage at Spurn was light with seven being the most on one day, and numbers at Flamborough were little higher the maxima being 14 on 31st August and 16 on 21st September. Most had left by late September. The last inland was one at Thorpe Marsh on 15th October, but two were at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 18th and four at Flamborough on 19th October; the last was at Spurn on 2nd November.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

One at Cullingworth on 18th April, and one to two at four localities in V.C. 63 before the month end with a general arrival from 4th to 13th May.

Bred at five localities in V.C. 61 and other interesting breeding reports were of 24 pairs at six sites near Settle, 16 pairs on Hatfield Moors and at least 10 pairs near Huddersfield. A pair attempted to breed at Spurn. Passage at Flamborough was fairly heavy with 57 on 4th September 78 on 8th and 50 on 19th, but less marked at Spurn where the maxima was 40 in mid-September.

Last singles inland at Beckwithshaw on 4th and Thrybergh Tip on 5th October, and on the coast at Flamborough on 12th and Spurn on 25th October.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

V.C. 61: One to two regularly along the coast and at Spurn during the winter both early and late in the year. A male at Flamborough on 29th and 30th March was thought to be of the race *S.t.rubicola* (PAL). One at Skipwith on 13th May was the only non winter record. Spurn had up to six in September and seven in October.

A male at Spurn on 25th October showed characters of the race *S.t. stejnegeri*; and a female on 2nd November those of *S.t.stejnegeri*; or *maura*, both races colloquially known as Siberian Stonechats.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

V.C.62 and V.C. 65 no records.

V.C. 63: Two on Thorne Moors on 13th January, and singles at only two other sites before spring. One at Agden on 4th May and one at Whitley Thorpe on 2nd September. Singles at four sites in October and only two more in November and December.

V.C. 64: As elsewhere inland it was a poor year with only five reports from three sites between January and April, and six from four sites between September and December.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first were at Spurn, Ingbirchworth Res. and Ardsley Res. on 23rd March, then at eight sites in V.C. 63 and four sites in V.C. 64 before the month end, and one on Pott Moor on 26th March.

The heaviest spring passage was at Flamborough with 176 on 12th April and 40 there the day after. Autumn numbers were lower with up to 25 at Spurn and 40 at Flamborough at the end of August. Ten inland records during October the last on Broomhead Moor on 30th. No coastal records after 19th October except one at Withernsea on 23rd November.

Birds of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoa* at Spurn during May and September, and at a few sites in V.C. 63 including five at Scammonden on 20th April and one at Tinsley S.F. on 5th October.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

The arrivals were mainly rather later than usual although the first of spring were two at Walshaw on 22nd March, at one site on 27th then at five sites on 30th. No exceptional gatherings in the spring, but 25 on Moughton Fell on 25th August and 45 on Ilkley Moor on 17th September were unusully large feeding parties. Apart from one at Withens near Halifax on 19th October, all had left the upland areas by the last week in September. Those at Flamborough (one on 6th November). Scalby Mills (one on 18th October) and at Spurn, one to two from 11th October to 10th November, would be part of a late movement.

Breeding widespaad in the uplands of all vice-counties except 61.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Arrival at Spurn on several days in October from 11th to 17th then 300 on 26th October and 170 on 1st November. Flamborough had 330 on 12th October, 120 on 19th and 410 on 1st November. 200 departed inland from Hornsea Mere on the evening of 31st October. Migrants appeared inland in V.C. 63 from 22nd October onwards and 60 were at Wintersett on 23rd November.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Up to 500 at Spurn in mid-January which had moved before a coastal influx on 2nd February of 670 there, and 500 at Filey and 650 at Flamborough. Following this, 850 at Flamborough on 3rd 1,000 at Cayton Carrs on 6th and 400 at Filey on 9th February. Inland flocks were of 400 or less until some obvious spring movement commenced with 1,300 at Cooper Bridge, Mirfield on 11th April and 1,000 near Barningham (V.C. 65) on 4th May. Stragglers remained inland up to 19th May, and a few were on the coast on 26th. Singles in June at Spurn on 7th and Howell Wood on 18th.

A few coastal records after the first at Spurn on 15th August, then inland two on Hatfield Moor on 20th and one at Wath Ings on 28th August before a few in September at nine localities. 40 at Bretton Park on 4th October were also in advance of the main arrival from 12th, after which birds were widespread inland. On 18th October 2,000 west between Malton and York; 2,000 over Knaresborough and 1,500 over Copmanthorpe, and on 19th 1,050 west over Bolton-on-Swale. 850 at Flamborough on 26th October when 545 came in off the sea at Spurn, and 2,000 were at Fairburn Ings. 1,000 at Wath Ings around the end of October; 2,000 at Wintersett on 6th November; 1,000 at Hornsea Mere on 9th and near Newton Kyme on 29th November. December flocks were small and some westerly movement was noted with 600 over Broomhead Moor on 20th and 300 on 27th.

One off Flamborough on 26th October had the head and wings heavily marked with white (VAL, PD).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

A coastal influx noted in October with 18 to 50 at Spurn from 11th to 17th; 105 at Flamborough on 12th and 25 at Filey on 19th. Inland during this period 60 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 18th; up to 150 at Wentworth on 22nd and 50 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 31st October.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Numbers in January were very small, but more noted in February with 1,500 at Filey on 2nd; 800 at Hornsea Mere shortly after; 607 at Denaby Ings on 15th, and 470 at Acaster Malbis on 20th. Up to 25 at eight sites in V.C. 63 in April; the last inland were two at Middlesmoor on 4th May and three at Commondale on 8th. Singles at Spurn on six days to 8th June.

One at Spurn on 11th September; four at Esholt on 12th; singles over Hull on 13th and 14th, and two at South Stainley on 23rd. Although over 100 appeared at Spurn on three dates from 3rd to 11th October a substantial influx took place on 12th as follows: V.C. 61 460 at Flamborough; 600 near Kilpin; 200 at Spurn, and many flying west over York. V.C. 63 300 to 500 moving west at five sites, and 4,200 went over Thorne Moor. V.C. 64: 2,963 west over Knaresborough Ringing Station; 1,000 over Crocket Moss, and up to 500 at other localities. V.C. 65. 100 at Askrigg. All later flocks and movements were smaller although Spurn had 600 on 17th October, and 400 were at Bretton Park on 4th December.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Flocks reported were small with 41 roosting at Hutton Magna on 6th August; 50 at Allerton Park on 5th October; 40 at Beeston Cemetry on 22nd October, and 41 at Bretton Park on 28th November.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia.*

Singles at Spurn and Worsbrough Res. on 13th April and by 15th a few had arrived near Doncaster and at Blacktoft Sands. Bred at three sites in V.C. 61, and possibly at two more. In V.C. 63 bred at Wintersett Res. (six pairs) and at Blacktoft Sands and summered at and may have bred at five more places. Five males singing in a plantation at Kirby Sigston on 19th May.

Last ones in September at Wintersett on 13th, Flamborough on 21st and Carlton near Barnsley on 25th.

Savis Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

A male at Blacktoft Sands from 8th to 15th July (AG).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobanus*

The first at Tophill Low Res. and Blacktoft Sands on 13th April, at Carlton on 14th, and at Hornsea Mere, Wheldrake Ings, Fairburn Ings and Wintersett Res. on 16th. A good season reported from Blacktoft Sands where 70 pairs bred; Fairburn Ings had 34 pairs; Wintersett Res. 26 pairs and Mickletown Ings 26 singing males. Singles in October at Spurn on 1st, Potteric Carr on 2nd and Blacktoft Sands on 4th.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

A singing male at Flamborough on 8th June (JH, DS), and another at Spurn from 26th to 28th June.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Singles at Hornsea Mere on 16th April; at Potteric Carr and Thorne Moor on 21st, and Blacktoft Sands on 22nd were well in advance of the main influx from 8th to 11th May. Breeding counts of 16 pairs at Fairburn Ings; 12 pairs at Wintersett Res; 10 pairs at Worsbrough Res and 27 singing males at Mickletown Ings. About 400 pairs at Blacktoft Sands had a bad breeding season due to the wet conditions.

Late birds at Blacktoft Sands and Worsbrough Res. on 12th October, and at Spurn on 17th October.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One at Holbeck Gardens, Scarborough on 10th May (RHA). A male singing at Seamer G.P. on 29th and 30th May (MF, RHA). Two at Flamborough on 8th June and one on 14th (JH, PAL, IS).

Two at Flamborough on 31st August and one on Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on the same day (GRE). One at Spurn on 1st and another on 2nd September. Two at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 2nd and 3rd September (PJD, SR, RHA). One at Spurn on 20th and one on 21st September. Two at Flamborough on 28th September (PAL, IS, DIMW).

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

A first-summer male caught and ringed at Spurn on 9th May (BRS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

One at Spurn on 25th August, four on 27th, three on 28th and one on 4th September, and probably two in October, one from 14th to 19th and one on 13th and 19th. One at Flamborough on 31st August (JH). Singles at Kilnsea on 11th September (GRE), 14th October (SML) and 18th (NAB).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

One at Thorpe Marsh on 1st May and at Spurn on 2nd with a steady arrival at many sites from 3rd to 7th May. Pairs bred at five sites near Doncaster, and 10 pairs bred at Wintersett Res. Singing males at sites in V.C. 62. Last inland at Fairburn Ings on 22nd September and later birds on the coast included singles at Spurn and Filey on 15th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

First of spring were at Spa Gill (V.C. 64) on 13th April and at Spurn and Harrogate S.F. on 15th April, and at three localities in V.C. 63 on 19th April and had reached many parts of the county by the month end.

Reported as a common breeding bird now in some areas of V.C. 64; had a good breeding season in the Laytham/Burnby/Bielby area of V.C. 61, and good numbers were reported from parts of V.C. 62, whereas in V.C. 63 is still not common amongst the Pennine valleys and foothills although becoming more common further east. Only 10 pairs bred at Wintersett Res. compared with 22 in 1979 and the ringing total there was the lowest since 1974. Most had departed by 29th September except one at Harrogate S.F. on 15th October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Only two April records; one at Potteric Carr on 21st, and one at Bishops Wood on 29th, with a general arrival from 3rd to 10th May. 14 at Flamborough on 17th May was the peak of spring passage, and 11 there on 31st August and 16 at Spurn on 2nd September were the autumn maxima. One at Wintersett on 28th September; two at Flamborough on 19th October and one at Spurn on 25th were the latest inland and coastal records.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Wintering individuals at three localities in V.C. 61 plust at least 12 bird days at Spurn up to 1st April; at three localities in V.C. 63 and nine in V.C. 64 from January to March, and one at Cornelian Bay on 16th February.

A few appeared in the spring between 2nd and 7th April but the main arrival took place from 9th to 15th April.

Autumn passage was light with maxima of 20 at Flamborough on 12th October and 25 at Spurn on 17th.

Wintering birds at South Cave and Kirkella in V.C. 61 during December; at Almondbury (two), Thongsbridge and Wentworth in V.C. 63, and at three places in V.C. 64 including two at Meanwood.

Pallas's Wabler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Two at Spurn caught and ringed on 17th October (JWH, BRS, RS) were still present on 18th when a third appeared and remained to 21st (JMB, JC, NPW), a fourth was seen on 19th (PFB, AJH, PDY), and a fifth caught and ringed on 31st October (BB, BRS). One at Scarborough on 1st November (C & RH, RW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

One at Flamborough head on 15th November (PAL, IS).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

One at Spurn on 27th September and one on 21st October.

Two at Flamborough on 28th September (DIMW); one from 2nd to 4th November and two on 7th (PAL, IS); one on 8th (PAL, DIMW) and one on 10th November (DIMW).

Inland records are rare so two in one year was quite remarkable. These were singles at Harrogate S.F. on 15th October (JH) and at Bretton Park on 2nd November (PH, DP).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Singles at Knotford Nook on 5th April and near Lindley Res. on 10th were exceptionally early. The main arrival took place between 10th and 15th May.

Possibly bred at Skipwith Common and Thorganby in V.C. 61.

Widespread breeding in the hillside woodlands of other vice-counties.

An increase in the Huddersfield area where five pairs bred, and at least seven singing males were at other possible breeding sites.

One at Castle Hill, Scarborough, two at Spurn and three at Flamborough on 1st September. The last one at Lindley Res. on 11th September.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The only wintering birds early in the year were at Clifton, Rotherham on 3rd January; Lundwood on 13th ; at Spenborough S.F. on 1st February and at Flamborough on 7th. A very early arrival at Wintersett Res. on 1st March followed by another at Pugney's G.P. near Wakefield on 6th and 8th. Two weeks later, one at Flamborough on 23rd March then singles at four sites in V.C. 63, and at least four sites in V.C. 64 before the month end.

Autumn passage was light with 10 at Spurn on 12th and 17th October; 20 at Flamborough on 18th October, and 12 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 20th September.

Birds showing characters of the races *P.c.abietinus* (several) and *P.c.tristis* were recorded at Spurn in October. One of the Siberian race *P.c.tristis* was caught at Wintersett Res. on 22nd November and remained to 1st December (PS). Birds considered to be of that race were at Flamborough in November with three on 2nd and singles on 3rd, 7th to 9th and 16th, two being trapped (PAL).

Wintering birds at five localities in V.C. 61, five in V.C. 63 and three in V.C. 64.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

First ones at Wintersett Res. and Fairburn Ings on 3rd April and Wath Ings on 4th, and at many more sites by 6th, including Skipwith Common and Bolton-on-Swale, then good numbers in many parts by 14th April.

Peak spring numbers at Flamborough of 80 on 10th May.

Autumn maxima included 90 at Spurn on 13th August; 20 at Filey and 60 at Flamborough on 31st August; 20 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 1st and 20th September, and 26 at Spurn on 19th.

There were three October records inland at Thrybergh Tip on 5th, Thorpe Marsh on 8th and Sprotbrough Flash on 9th.

Goldcreset *Regulus regulus*

Good numbers reported in many localities in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 indicating a reasonable breeding season.

The autumn influx was noted inland by an increase in numbers at a number of localities from mid-October onwards.

The highest numbers on the coast were at Flamborough with 140 on 28th September; 350 on 12th and 110 on 19th October then 85 on 2nd November; and at Spurn 100 on 11th; 250 on 12th and 100 on 14th October, and 60 to 70 on 13th up to 17th October.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

A very good year particularly at Flamborough and Spurn. One at Low Dalby on 19th February (NAB). Singles at Spurn on 29th March, 3rd April and 9th, 12th, 26th and 27th May. One at Flamborough on 4th and 6th April (TAE, STH).

In the autumn singles at Filey on 1st and 12th September, 15th October and 2nd November (TH, DJW, AJL, HJW). At Flamborough singles on 28th September and 12th October, and then after three on 1st and at least 11 on 2nd November; three on 3rd, 8th and 10th, two on 5th, five on 7th, six on 15th, seven on 16th and finally two on 22nd (DGH, PAL, IS, DIMW *et al*). Four were at Spurn on 1st November remaining to be joined by a fifth on 3rd, then up to two on 7th, and five on 8th. Of these one remained to the year end and another to at least 23rd November whilst three more appeared on 17th down to two on 23rd, and one seen on 30th (JC, BRS).

One in woodland by Broomhead Res. on 2nd November (JIM).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The first was at Bretton Park on 17th May then singles at Malham Tarn Woods and Ossett Spa S.F. on 9th and at five other localities including Spurn and Hornsea next day.

Autumn passage light with the maximum 23 at Flamborough on 1st September.

Last inland were two at Gunthwaite on 27th September, and on the coast two at Flamborough on 12th October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One at Spurn on 26th May was the only spring record.

One at Floral Hall Gardens, Scarborough on 20th September (RHA) and one at Castle Hill on 21st (RNH). A good autumn at Spurn with one on 21st and 22nd September, four on 11th October with two remaining on 12th, then six individuals from the 14th including one from 15th to 23rd, with the maximum of three on 18th. At Flamborough three on 12th October and one from 5th to 8th November (DGH, PAL, IS, DIMW).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One at Folly Hall Woods (VC 64) and two males at Sleightholmedale on 26th April were the first arrivals. First at other localities between 6th and 10th May. Six singing males at Sleightholmedale on 24th May and 13 at Bolton Abbey on 25th. A pair bred at Ravensgill (V.C. 64) which is not a regular site.

Autumn passage was comparatively light with maxima of 80 at Flamborough on 31st August; 17 in the Scarborough area on 20th September and 16 at Spurn on the same day.

No late records away from the coast, the last one at Spurn on 12th October.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

V.C. 61: Hornsea Mere had three on 28th January and six on 15th November, and singles on 22nd March, 7th April, 25th October and 17th November. Along the Humber Wildfowl Refuge 20 on 1st January; 26 on 28th September and 25 on 30th October (AC). Two at Welton on 11th May; five on 14th and 21st October, and three on 22nd November (PH).

Spurn Point had singles on 1st and 16th April, and five flew south on 3rd November.

V.C. 63: Blacktoft Sands had up to 60 in January and February with a slight increase in March. The breeding population of 40 pairs showed a slight recovery from 1979. The first broods were successful, but seconds and thirds less so during wet weather. Overrall a good breeding season with 500 present in late September. Numbers down to 200 after eruptions from 21st September to mid November.

Five at Old Goole on 13th January and six on 30th November, and one at Micklefield Ings on 27th December.

V.C. 64: One north-west over Castleford on 13th December.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Good numbers reported from many areas in the autumn and winter with many flocks of 12 to 25 indicating a good breeding season, and considerable recovery in overall numbers.

V.C. 61: 40 at Dunnington Common on 28th Dcember.

V.C. 63: Up to 40 at Thorpe Marsh from July to September, and over 70 on 22nd October. 30 on Hatfield Moors in October and November. 40 at Potteric Carr on 2nd November. 42 at Fowlsyke Flash on 9th December.

V.C. 64: 30 at Clifford on 30th August, 37 at Harrogate S.F. on 17th July, and 42 at Gouthwaite Res. on 22nd November.

V.C. 65: 31 at Whitwell on 27th January.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Still remains a locally common breeding bird in the wooded valleys of the North Yorkshire Moors and in parts of the Dales, but is rare (or under-reported) in V.C. 61, where at Weedley Springs two were singing on 23rd May, and certainly rare in V.C. 63 where five were at Roche Abbey on 27th August.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Statistics not available but there is some indication of a recovery in breeding numbers in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64. A flock of 30 at Thorpe Marsh on 8th November.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Back to pre 1978 numbers in V.C. 64. Over 30 near Eccup Res. in July. Birds of the Continental race *P.a.ater* at Flamborough on 2nd, 15th and 16th November.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Flocks of more than 50 at eight localities in V.C. 63 of which the largest was 200 at Newmillerdam on 19th July, and 80 at Lower Tyersal on 2nd August. An influx at Flamborough on 2nd and 3rd November when 120 were present was not noted elsewhere the peak at Spurn being 40 during August.

Great Tit *Parus major*

No significant reports on status received. Over 100 in Bretton Park on 14th December.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Four singing in Sleightholmedale on 23rd February. At least six pairs bred in V.C. 63. Little change in status in V.C. 64 with possibly as many as 14 pairs breeding in the Leeds area. Reported from six localities in V.C. 65 most of which would be breeding areas. An unusual record of one at Filey on 31st October.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Breeding numbers in parts of V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 showed an increase over 1979 numbers. A small influx at Flamborough on 2nd November.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Single males at a woodland near Doncaster on 27th and 30th May (AC *et al*); Hornsea Mere on 2nd June (RGH); Worsbrough Res. on 6th June (PP) and at Aughton on 8th June (BCa, SM, GS)

Addition to 1979 Report: One at a Doncaster woodland on 5th May (AF).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Three at Flamborough on 22nd May then singles on 23rd, from 26th to 28th, and on 30th. Singles at Spurn on 23rd and Filey on 26th May (AMP). A female at Strines from 12th to 17th June (DH, IF).

Singles at Flamborough on 2nd August, 2nd and 28th September (PAL, IS). One at Kilnsea on 13th September (SML). One at Spurn on 20th September.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

A quite marked reduction compared with numbers in recent years, with only two autumn records.

Singles at Mickletown Ings on 5th January; at Hoyle Mill on the R. Dearne on 29th February, and during March at Owston Wood on 11th; Whitley near Goole on 22nd and Scawthorpe on 26th.

One at Flamborough on 6th November, and one at Wath Ings and Denaby Ings on many dates between 27th November and 29th December.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

One at Spurn on 14th July (RPC, BRS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Larger numbers recorded during the autumn with 20 at Lindley Res. on 4th September; 51 on Hatfield Moors on 12th October and 68 on 19th; and 56 on Thorne Moors on 26th October.

Magpie *Pica pica*

The largest roost assemblies reported were 120 in the Rivelin Valley during January; and during December 119 at Danes' Dyke on 7th; 80 at Blackmoorfoot on 12th; 80 at Adel Dam on 14th and 74 at Worsbrough on 22nd.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Birds considered to be migrants at Flamborough were 120 on 30th March and 160 on 26th October, and also 20 at Spurn on 30th March. One at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 7th, 13th and 29th April showed characteristics of the race *C.m.monedula*.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

15,000 roosting at Frickley Park during the autumn and winter months. Other reports of numbers that were received did not represent the large population within the County.

A *leucistic* bird was near Cawood on 15th February.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

280 in the Hornsea Mere corvid roost on 7th February. Flocks and roosts in V.C. 63 were small apart from 6 at Midhope on 27th September. Good numbers in V.C. 64 including 150 at High Batts in the winter months; 120 at Askham Bog on 10th May and 100 there in October and November; 106 at Fairburn Ings on 9th August, and 70 at Settle S.F. on 21st October. 50 at Spurn on 16th April.

Peaks at Flamborough of 120 on 20th January; 100 on 4th October and 150 on 22nd November, and 44 flew east out to sea on 2nd May. Hooded Crows *C.c.cornix* were most frequent at Flamborough, with birds on 15 days during the spring, including seven on 16th April, and 10 days in autumn with three on 16th November; and at Spurn one or two on 14 days up to 8th June and on eight days from 25th September to 18th November. Inland singles at Fairburn Ings on 22nd January; Worsborough Dale S.F. from 27th January to 4th April; Commondale from 26th January to 18th February; Sneaton on 30th January; Wath Ings on 25th March; and 9th April; Ewden on 30th March; N. Cave on 21st March; Eller Beck on 4th May and in V.C. 61 at six sites near the coast. Winter records of two at Wintersett Res. on 9th and one on 16th November; one at Highfield's Doncaster on 30th November and at Bentley Tilts on 28th December, and one at Scalby Mills on 27th December.

Raven *Corvus corax*

One at Stocks Res. on 2nd February was the only early record, and no information was received concerning breeding.

Two flew north-west between Driffield and Skerne on 23rd July (WFC), and one was near Bessingby on 21st September (DIMW). Singles on Fountains Fell on 2nd October and near Muker on 30th (BSh) and at Gordale Scar on 20th December. Three at Rylestone Cross on 18th October.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The roost at Hornsea Mere was low with a maximum of 9,000 in October and November. 25,000 roosted on the cliffs at Thornwick Bay in the early winter. A roost at Blacktoft Sands built up briefly to a maximum of 20,000 on 8th September, and over 10,000 roosted at Mickletown Ings in early autumn. 50,000 roosted near Ramsgill on 1st March, and over 10,000 in Park Square Leeds in November. Flocks and roost moments of 5,000 to 10,000 at several places and 50,000 flew west over Swillington Ings on 31st August.

House Sparrow *Passer domestius*

1,100 in one feeding flock near Kilnsea on 20th January. Southerly passage at Spurn on 20 dates in the autumn totalling over 5,000 with a maximum of 1,072 on 20th October.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

A flock of 50 at Long Nab, Burniston on 7th February. Several localities near Doncaster had flocks of up to 200 during the winter months. Elsewhere in V.C. 63 flocks were only of 50 to 60 apart from 100 by Blackmoorfoot Res. in mid-August. In V.C. 64 the largest flocks were 120 near Clifford in January; 112 on Eccup Moor on 16th February and 200 near Farnham G.P.'s on 27th December. 443 south at Spurn on 9th October.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Flocks of 100 to 150 in the winter months were two in V.C. 61, seven in V.C. 63 and two in V.C. 64 plus the follwing larger flocks 300 at Markington on 1st January; 200 at Gouthwaite on 1st September; 250 near Masham on 28th October; 200 at Deffer Wood on 7th December and in the Ewden Valley on 25th December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Numbers in the early months were no more than average. A flock of 200 at Bretton Park in early January declined to 25 by 20th. Over 100 were near Bielby (V.C.61) in January and February. 75 at Fountains Abbey on 8th March was V.C. 64's largest flock. 250 were between Kirkhamgate and Ardsley on 4th March, and up to 200 were still there on 29th March. Singing males were at three sites in late April when numbers were much reduced, and the only May records were singles at Knotford Nook on 3rd, Flamborough on 4th and at Melton Wood and Hatfield Moor on 5th. Spurn had larger numbers during this time with 21 on 27th April, 30 on 1st May, and two to six up to 10th May, and one on 7th June.

The earliest autumn records also at Spurn with singles on 11th and 14th September and up to three from 26th to 28th. The earliest inland was one at Blackmoorfoot on 28th and 16 flew south-east over Mickledon (nr Langsett) on 29th September. Only singles figures at other places before the 12th October apart from 35 at Bretton Park on 8th and 32 at Naburn S.F. on 11th. 12th October was obviously a day of passage with small numbers at many localities and north-westerly movement of 392 at Knaresborough Ringing Station, and 158 at Crooket Moss, and also flocks of 100 at Whitfield Gill, Askrigg; and 55 at Flamborough, 70 at Midhope on 13th, and 90 at Wintersett on 26th October and a peak of 90 at Spurn on 22nd October.

A number of places held substantial flocks during November and December particularly Broomhead Hall-Ewden Valley area commencing with 50 on 1st November, then 200 to 350 on various dates from 11th November to 16th December and 700 on 25th December. The roost at Lotherton Hall held 150 on 8th November increasing to 350 on 13th December. 250 at Middlesmoor on 25th November; 100 at Wydale (V.C. 62) on 23rd December; 125 at St Ives on 30th December and 160 at Bretton Park on 28th December were the other large flocks.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

One at Spurn on 19th April (BAR), and a male singing at the Point on 23rd April (BRS *et al*). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

A good number of large flocks reported in the early months. Spurn had 220 on 6th January; Hatfield Moors 250 on 1st January; Allerton Park 200 in January and February, and Blacktoft Sands 200 on 2nd February. 150 at Folkton Carrs on 23rd February was the largest flock in the eastern V.C.'s and smaller flocks of up to 150 were at four localities in V.C. 63 and 64.

Flocks of 100 to 250 during the autumn and winter months at Filey Brigg, Carlton Marsh, Dewsbury S.F., Normanton, Upper Midhope, Storthes Hall, Ardsely Res. area and Eccup Moor, and flocks of 300 at Worsbrough on 20th September, Jervaulx on 28th October, Cocker Hill Farm, Leeds during September, and Allerton Park in December. Southerly passage at Spurn had maxima of 164 on 22nd September and 530 on 31st October. An exceptional flock of at least 1,000 at Swinefleet Common on 20th December.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

The largest flocks occurred during autumn with 103 between Clifford and Newton Kyme in August; 150 at Blacktoft Sands on 8th September; 100 near Settle S.F. on 17th September and 150 at Wath Ings on 5th October. Southerly passage at Spurn peaked during October with 382 on 5th and 431 on 8th. 120 at Flamborough on 19th and 150 on 29th September, and 100 at Filey on 27th September.

At least six pairs bred in Leeds City centre, an increase in this area.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Much higher numbers throughout the year than in 1979.

V.C. 61: 25 west over Hunmanby on 23rd March. 50 to 60 at Hornsea Mere from 19th to 26th October. 60 at Escrick Wood on 10th November (PP). Peaks of southerly passage at Spurn were 51 on 18th September; 71 on 19th October and 160 on 24th October.

V.C. 62: The Dalby village area had 40 on 27th January and 100 on 19th February (CEW), and there were obvious signs of breeding here and in the nearby forest in May and July (HOB). 50 at Bakers Warren, Wykeham on 1st March (MF), and 35 on Scalby Beck side on 20th September (RHA).

V.C. 63: 50 at Esholt on 7th February; 75 at Gunthwaite on 23rd and 24th February, and 150 at Wintersett on 21st March with smaller flocks at 10 other places in the early months. Bred in at least two sites in the south-west. 63 on Hatfield Moor on 27th September; 60 at Stainborough on 9th November and 68 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 18th December, and up to 50 at Ewden, Bretton and Wentworth in November, as well as smaller flocks at 10 other localities.

V.C. 64: Many large flocks in the period January to March the largest being 100 at Harrogate S.F. on 20th January; 113 at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th February; 94 at Pateley Bridge on 24th February; 120 at Askham Bog on 17th March and 75 to 80 at five sites near Leeds.

Evidence of breeding in the Washburn Valley.

80 at Adel Crags on 28th September, and 60 at Pateley Bridge in the autumn.

V.C. 65: Flocks of eight and 15 near Muker on 30th October.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Flocks of up to 100 at many places in the early months, and also 200 at Newmillerdam on 2nd March, and at Nostefield G.P.as late as 14th May.

Many autumn flocks of 100 to 250, particularly in V.C. 63. Larger flocks in the county of 300 at Ryther during September; Pugney's G.P. on 7th September and at Ardsley on 1st October; 350 at Flamborough on 19th September; 400 roosting at Farnham G.P. on 31st August, and 400 at Wath during September, and Carlton Marsh on 21st September, and 500 at Denaby Ings during September. Over 13,000 flew south of Spurn during the autumn with peak days of 885 on 29th September, and 1,290 on 5th October.

Twite*Carduelis flavirostris*

Small numbers along the coast during winter with seven at Barmston as maximum and occasional birds at lowland sites away from the Pennines, with a flock of 16 at Wroot on 26th January which included one showing characters of the continental race *C.p.flavirostris* (ML). 47 at Broadstones near Ingbirchworth on 26th January was the first winter record of a flock in an

upland area since 1968. Flocks were returning to, and near, the breeding areas during March with 50 at Rishworth Moor on 26th March, and 26 at Ben Rhydding on 29th April. Seven pairs bred on Sutton Moor compared with three in 1979. Autumn flocks in V.C. 63 were rather small, the largest of 80 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th September. In V.C. 64 at least 400 at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 30th August; 75 on Malham Moor on 11th September and 123 at Duck Street on 26th, 20 at Ringstone Edge on 2nd October.

In V.C. 65 a pair of Grains o' the Beck on 25th May, a pair with juveniles near Dent Station on 6th July, and two in Grisedale on 13th April with a flock of 50 in the area on 31st August.

28 at Flamborough on 28th September; 60 on 12th October at Barmston and maxima of 25 at Spurn in October and 11 in November.

Seven flew south at Thrybergh Res. on 30th December.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

A flock of 85 at Adel Dam on 10th February was the largest in the early months, and 50 to 80 were at three other localities in V.C. 63 and one in V.C. 64. Bred at Hornsea Mere and Naburn and present at three other localities during May in V.C. 61. Widespread breeding reports in V.C. 63 and at least 40 pairs on Hatfield Moor, where flocks later totalled 210 on 27th September and 439 on 12th October. 918 flew south at Spurn during the autum with 120 on 28th September and 207 on 9th October. 100 at Coneygarth on 20th September; 150 at Allerthorpe Common and 300 at Selby on 28th September, and 220 at Fairburn Ings on 9th November, and 50 to 70 at five places in V.C. 63 during the last three months. Birds showing characters of the Mealy Redpoll *C.f.flammea* were two at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 3rd March; singles at Flamborough on 18th May and 29th September; 50 out of a flock of 58 between Everingham and Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 21st and 23rd December, 35 near Market Weighton on 25th December, and 55 at Hayton on 26th December (DIMW).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Recorded in every month throughout the county with one to three at 19 localities and larger numbers in seven localities at some of which breeding probably occurred.

V.C. 61: Up to 12 at Weldon's Plantation, Winestead during June and July.

V.C. 62: 42 at Bakers Warren, Wykeham on 22nd February (MF), and regularly in the Dalby Forest area with peaks of 100 on 16th February and 8th March (KR, HOB *et al*).

V.C. 63: 16 at Langsett on 13th July and up to 15 in November and December.

V.C. 64: In the Washburn Valley 18 (mostly juveniles) on 2nd August and 53 on 17th October (PJC, CGV). 12 over Addingham Moorside on 22nd November.

V.C. 65: Five in Stang Forest on 28th June, and 13 on 2nd November (DR).

Scarlet Rosfinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Singles at Spurn on 20th and 22nd September (DAB, GRE) and on 4th October (BRS, SWW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Bullfinch*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Small flocks of 10 to 20 at Gunthwaite, Great Langton and Hornsea Mere in January, and at Wintersett in April. Over 50 at Potteric Carr on 25th December. A female of the Northern race *P.p.pyrrhula* was caught at Spurn on 17th October, and birds considered to be of this race were at Flamborough on 4th and 5th November (two males, one female) and 16th Novemeber (one male, one female).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

V.C. 62: A pair in Commondale on 20th February; a pair from 1st to 3rd April, including a female with nesting material on 2nd, and four on 7th (MC). Two at Danby, Eskdale on 5th April (GWF).

V.C. 63: A pair in Frickley Park from January to June with three on 15th June. Up to five in Kings Wood, Rotherham on 24th February. A pair at Sprotbrough Flash from March to June, and five birds on 26th April. Three pairs in Melton Wood may have bred. Two in Scabba Wood

on 11th May, and two adults and three juveniles on 23rd June. A pair at Todwick Common on 17th July. One at Wintersett on 22nd September; and two on 15th and one on 22nd November at Bretton Park.

V.C. 64: Two pairs bred at a site near Leeds and 13 were in that area on 23rd November. Two pairs located near Knottingley, one pair losing its young, and nearby at Fairburn Ings one to three appeared on four occasions from 15th March to 19th October. 11 records in the Harrogate area, mainly singles, but four at Follifoot on 27th June. Large numbers in the Fountains Abbey area with 64 on 3rd February (PJC), but no more than five at the year end.

Slate-coloured Junco *Junco hyemalis*

Correction to 1979 Report: The bird near Rotherham was on 3rd January 1977, not 1979 as stated.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Good numbers especially in the early months near the coast.

Present at Filey Brigg up to 18th April (one) with 24 on 20th January, 30 on 16th February and 10 on 10th March (PJD *et al*). Barmston had 38 on 1st January, up to 20 during February, and the last were seven on 23rd March (KR *et al*). Flamborough had 23 on 26th January then fewer during the early months. Kilnsea had 23 on 1st, 35 on 13th, and 38 on 20th January, and 38 on 22nd March (SML). Spurn had birds regularly to 5th February (with 34 on 5th January), but then only eight records to 6th April including 10 south on 17th February, and finally one on 11th May.

Two on 11th September at Spurn where one to two regularly to 7th December with up to three during October. Singles at Flamborough on 13th and 14th September and eight on 4th November (DIMW); seven at Filey Brigg on 8th November; 12 at Fraisthorpe on 29th November, and 33 at Kilnsea on 30th December (SML).

Away from the coast singles at Hornsea Mere on 8th January (RGH); Blacktoft Sands on 19th February, 30th October and 3rd November (AG); Faxfleet on 16th November (TAE); Hatfield Moor on 16th and 23rd November (MLy), and two flying north-west at Fairburn Ings on 21st December (CW).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Flocks in the early months at Barmston and in the Kilnsea and Spurn areas. Present into March at Barmston with a maximum of 45, Kilnsea had 195 on 13th January and 225 on 20th, and these and others were at Spurn with up to 180 in January; 100 on 4th February, down to only nine on 22nd then 52 on 1st March, and 28 on 23rd after which singles on 29th March, 4th April and 8th June. Small numbers at Hornsea, Filey and Flamborough up to March.

One at Hornsea on 10th September, but the main autumn arrival was from mid-October. Barmston had a flock of 200 from the end of November to mid-December. 22 at Flamborough on 25th October and 40 on 8th November, 15 to 20 at Atwick during late December. Daily at Spurn from the 17th October, with 120 to 200 on six days in November increasing to 400 on 9th and 700 on 18th December. This vast flock moved between the Easington-Kilnsea area and Spurn during December, and apart from the above the highest counts were 650 at Kilnsea and 70 at Spurn on 6th; 1,000 north of Kilnsea on 11th; and 350 at Spurn and 830 on Beacon Lane on 30th December.

Inland; singles at Whiteholme Res. on 3rd January; Blacktoft Sands on 4th and 22nd February and 3rd December; at Snailsden on 2nd and 3rd November; Ilton Moor on 20th and Cupwith-Hill on 29th November. Two south-east over Fairburn Ings on 27th April.

*Addition to 1979 report:*One at Mickletown Ings on 6th January.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

During the early months flocks of 50 to 80 at Clifford, Skipwith, Commondale, Brompton and Worsbrough. 100 at Stillingfleet on 8th February and near Fishlake on 23rd March; 178 on Thorne Moors on 13th February and 150 on Hatfield Moors on 16th.

Autumn flocks of 50 to 80 at Stillingfleet, Birkin, Clifford, Carlton and Flamborough (an influx on 21st October), and larger flocks of 100 at Newton Kyme on 7th December, and 170 at Hatfield Moors on 19th.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

In the spring singles at Flamborough on 12th April (AMA, DGH) and 23rd May (PAL), and at Spurn on 12th May. September records from Flamborough, one on 7th (PAL, PHS) and one on 29th, and at Kilnsea, one on 11th (DRF, RL).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

One caught and ringed at Spurn on 15th October (JWH, BRS, RS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Blacktoft Sands had 450 on 7th January and 400 on 18th November with about 160 pairs breeding there. Breeding counts of 53 pairs at Fairburn Ings, 60 to 70 at Micklefield Ings, and 60 at Hatfield Moors.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

At the start of the year a flock of 470 at Filey Brigg included one white bird. In the Kilnsea area 130 on 1st January which increased to 220 by 12th; 320 on 20th January and 600 by 2nd February, decreasing to 390 by 28th February and 450 on 29th. At Spurn 135 on 2nd January and 180 on 27th February were presumably from this flock. Roosts in V.C. 63 at Wath Ings had 120 in October and Carlton had 200 on 30th November.

Correction to 1979 report: Line two should read 'on the Filey headland; not Flamborough.

Escaped Birds

All the birds in this section are those which have obviously escaped from captivity. Those which may or may not have had a wild origin such as Snow Goose and other species of wildfowl which may have a feral origin are included in the main list with the appropriate proviso.

Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber chilensis*
One flew north at Spurn on 22nd March and one was at Fairburn Ings on 7th April.

Chinese Goose *Anser cygnoides*(*var dom*).
Four were at Fairburn Ings up to 1st May of these three remained to 21st June and one to 29th December which was caught and taken to Roundhay Park. They are believed to have nested. A female at Bretton Park paired with a Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* and reared two hybrid young.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*
A pair flew into Fairburn Ings on 23rd November. They were caught at the end of December and taken to Roundhay Park.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*
A pair at Wentworth from 6th to 20th July.

Lanner *Falco biarmicus*
One at Warmsworth from 13th to 20th July (R.Gilbert).
A description of this bird was submitted by the observer and was considered by the Reports Committee and the *British Birds* Rarities Committee to be acceptable as this species, but its origin remains in doubt and it is therefore included in this section.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Palaeornis torquatus*
Singles at Spurn on 24th September and 19th November.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psiffacula enpatria*
One female at Flamborough on 23rd November (VAL, PD).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*
One at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 29th August.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*
A male at Fairburn Ings up to 22nd January.

Green Singing Finch *Serinus mozambicus*
One at Spurn from 21st to 27th September.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*
One at Spurn from 18th to 27th August and on 14th September.

The Need For Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication or forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should be the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, and should include the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, previous experience of the species etc. Forms based upon the form accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any species listed below:

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Black-throated Diver
Great Northern Diver
Red-necked Grebe
Slavonian Grebe
Black-necked Grebe
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Storm Petrel
Leach's Petrel
Bittern
Purple Heron
White Stork
Spoonbill
Bean Goose
Ruddy Shelduck
Red-crested Pochard
Ferruginous Duck
Smew
Ruddy Duck
Honey Buzzard
Red Kite
Goshawk
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Osprey
Hobby
Spotted Crake
Stone Curlew
Kentish Plover
Dotterel
Temmick's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Grey Phalarope
Pomarine Skua
Mediterranean Gull
Iceland Gull
Glaucous Gull
Sabine's Gull
Roseate Tern
Black Guillemot
Woodlark
Richard's Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Bluethroat
Cetti's Warbler
Savi's Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Barred Warbler
Yellow-browed Warbler
Firecrest
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Golden Oriole
Chough
Raven
Serin
Scarlet Rosefinch
Lapland Bunting
Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting

British Birds Rarities

All rarities requiring submission to the British Birds Rarities Committee, last listed in *British Birds*, Vol. 67, 1974, pages 347–8.

Races

All well-defined races of common species, eg: Blue-headed Wagtail, Water Pipit.

Descriptions should normally be furnished in support of records of migrant birds seen out of season, and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1980 have been received and those readers requiring more detailed information of the areas concerned should consult these.

V.C. 61: *Spurn Bird Observatory* — Classified List and Ringing Report.

V.C. 63: *Barnsley Study Group* — Classified List and Ringing Report.
Bradford Naturalists Society — Classified List.
Doncaster and District Ornithological Society — Classified List and Ringing Report.
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club — Classified List and Ringing Report.
Sheffield Bird Study Group — Classified List.
Wakefield Naturlists' Society — Classified List and Ringint Report.

V.C. 64: *Castleford and District Naturalists' Society*— Classified List.
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve — Classified List.
Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society— Classified List.
Knaresborough Ringing Station— Classified List and Ringing Report.
Leeds Birdwatchers' Club— Classified List.
Settle Bird Report— Classified List.
Wharfedale Naturalists' Society — Classified List.
York Ornithologists' Club— Classified List and Ringing Notes.

Detailed classified lists were also published for Carlton Marsh and Mickletown Ings.

Journals published by societies were also received.

The Magpie, Sheffield Bird Study Group.
Papers on Winter wildfowl, Winter gull roost at Langsett, House Martins.
Breeding biology of the Moorhen, and Great Grey Shrike feeding and behaviour.
Notes on Curlew, Magpie, Short-eared Owl and Lapwing.

The Lapwing, Doncaster and District Ornithological Society
Notes on Nuthatch at Roche Abbey, *Charadrius* plovers at Tudworth and Black Redstart breeding.

New Recorder for Vice-County 63

David Herringshaw of Sheffield took over the duties as recorder for V.C. 63 in 1981. He is Head of Biology at a large comprehensive school and has been deeply interested in ornithology for more than twelve years. A founder member of the Sheffield Bird Study Group for whom he was Ornithological Recorder for eight years, he has also served as a member of the Derbyshire County Records Committee, and has assisted in the writing of their report. A particular interest has been the study and protection of Sparrowhawk and Goshawk populations in the Peak District and South Yorkshire. A member of the British Ornithologist's Union, he has also served on the general committee of the Y.N.U. Ornithological Section.

He has travelled widely in search of birds throughout Britain, and has also visited Scandinavia, France, Austria and Turkey.

I ask everyone, particularly the local society recorders to give him their full support and send records to 303, Bellhouse Road, Sheffield S5 0RD. Tel. 618266.

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for omissions). Many other observers sent in records either directly or through their local societies and their co-operation is very much appreciated.

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